



## PLO selling real estate to raise cash

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is selling off some of its prime real estate to raise some of the \$125 million it needs to cover unpaid salaries, pensions and welfare benefits.

Some Palestinian fighters, in Iraq for example, have not been paid for the past seven months.

Abbas Zaki, a member of the Central Committee of the mainstream PLO movement, Fatah, told Reuters Sunday the organisation had already sold an office in Washington and planned to sell land, several embassies and other investments.

"There is a drive to sell and liquidate the revolution's assets and property to restore the balance and cover the deficit. We have to deal with this sudden and chaotic situation which affects all the fighters," he added.

The PLO, once one of the

world's richest liberation movements, has been hard hit financially by the loss of income from Gulf states angered by Palestinian sympathy for Iraq during the occupied territories before the Gulf crisis, was now paying them less than \$7 million.

It used to have an annual budget of \$240 million, \$85 million of which was a grant from Saudi Arabia.

The PLO's financial position has continued to deteriorate and in June it had to suspend salaries for nearly 30 per cent of its 15,000 employees, PLO officials say.

Mahmoud Darwish resigned

from the PLO Executive Committee last week partly in protest at the way it manages its finances.

Palestinians say those hardest hit are about 4,500 PLO fighters evacuated from Lebanon after the Israeli invasion in 1982 and relocated in camps in Libya, Sudan, Yemen and Algeria.

Mr. Zaki said guerrillas based in Iraq had not received salaries for seven months and those in

Libya for four months. He said the PLO, which used to send \$30 million a month to Palestinian families in the occupied territories before the Gulf crisis, was now paying them less than \$7 million.

Mr. Zaki said the salary bill for the guerrilla army, now suspended, was around \$9 million a month and some \$30 million in unpaid salaries had accumulated over the last few months.

He said an Amman-based PLO charity in charge of aiding relatives of imprisoned and killed Palestinians and PLO members had also severed payments since April, accumulating \$96 million in unpaid entitlements.

Fifty angry former PLO guerrillas staged a sit-in in front of the Palestinian embassy in Amman on Saturday to protest against the suspension of their salaries.

There have been similar protests recently in Yemen and in the Libyan capital Tripoli, PLO officials said.

He said the Arab states, in cutting aid to the PLO, were deliberately trying to marginalise the organisation.

"They want to cut our size to be shamefully small and this is what we will not accept," he said.

"To counter this, we are tightening expenses and adopting extreme austerity measures."

## Rebels strike again at Turkish tourism

ANKARA (Agencies) — Kurdish rebels have struck another blow at Turkey's lucrative tourist industry by kidnapping another batch of Westerners in the troubled southeast.

The rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is fighting for an independent Kurdish state, abducted an Italian and three Swiss tourists Saturday, bringing the total to 27 since June 1.

The Pro-PKK news agency Kurd-Ita first reported that the four new tourists had been kidnapped and the Swiss Foreign ministry confirmed that three Swiss, Giuseppe Rezzenco, Nico Panta and his wife Anna, were missing with Italian Angelo Palego.

But police in Dogubeyazit, where the four were said to have been abducted, say hotels have no records of the tourists and that no one had come across them.

In June and July the PKK bombed popular tourist spots in western Turkey, killing a Turk and injuring 46 people, including at least 18 foreign tourists.

The PKK demands that foreigners end its permission before travelling in the wild and mountainous southeast and says tourism indirectly finances the Turkish military.

After the latest kidnapping a PKK official said that by travelling in the area the tourists had "contributed to the dirty war of the Turkish state."

The kidnapping could also compound Turkey's problems with Switzerland, which has demanded Turkey lift the diplomatic

immunity of its ambassador over the killing of a Kurdish protester outside its embassy in Bern on June 24.

Turkey has said it will reject the demand.

The Kurd, Semsettin Kurt, was shot dead while taking part in a demonstration by PKK militants.

The Turkish ambassador to Bern, Kaya Toperi, returning to Turkey on Friday to discuss the situation, said Switzerland had acted negligently during the demonstration and Turkey would not take a meek attitude towards the Swiss demand.

The PKK has threatened to strike at tourism and has often taken foreigners hostage to win publicity.

### 18 soldiers killed

Eighteen Turkish soldiers were killed in the country's eastern region, the Anatolia news agency reported Sunday.

Kurdish guerrillas attacked a military post on the Iranian border in the eastern Iğdır province with rocket launchers late Saturday, killing 14 soldiers and two lieutenants, the dispatch said.

Two other soldiers were killed when their vehicle hit a mine planted by the Kurdish guerrillas while they were heading to the military post after hearing the attack, Anatolia added.

İdri Governor Erdogan İzgi told Anatolia that the Kurdish separatists, sneaking into Turkey from Iran, staged the attack with the members of the same Kurdish guerrilla group based at the foot of neighbouring Mount Ararat.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqis defuse U.S. cluster bombs

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraqi bomb disposal experts have defused eleven unexploded cluster bombs dropped by U.S. planes in an air-raid Thursday, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Saturday. Civil aviation forces have been searching since Thursday for unexploded bombs dropped on agricultural land near the site that "40 cluster bombs have been found in an area near the site attacked by Americans." The Pentagon said U.S. warplanes attacked a surface-to-air missile base in northern Iraq Thursday after a missile was fired at its planes from the base in the "no-fly" zone. Baghdad has denied any missiles were fired at U.S. planes.

### Kuwaiti to die for raping 10-year-old

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti man was sentenced to death by a court here Saturday for kidnapping and raping a 10-year-old Egyptian girl, court officials said. His three accomplices, all minors, were given 10-year jail sentences. Mohammad Al Rashidi and the three minors were found guilty of kidnapping, imprisoning and raping Racha Abdel, whom they held captive under armed guard in a building in the suburbs of Kuwait City from July 11 to July 15. They were also accused of trying to kidnap and rape another girl, who managed to escape. Mr. Rashidi was also found guilty of threatening to kill his sister-in-law after she told police he had tried to rape her. The presiding judge, Mohammad Al Matari, said after the verdict was announced that he favoured a change in the penal code so stiffer penalties could be passed against minors.

Matar Shlaiveh and Fayed Asal, both 17, were sentenced to 10 years for rape, kidnapping, robbery, arms possession, drug use and resisting arrest. Hani Asal, 16, was sentenced to five years for kidnapping and being an accessory to the rape and five years for robbery, the sentence to run consecutively.

### Four Arab prisoners escape Tel Aviv prison

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Arab prisoner at the Tel Aviv district prison overpowered a guard, took his weapon, released three other prisoners and escaped Saturday night, authorities said. Police launched a large-scale manhunt and believed the four, including two Israeli Arabs from Jaffa and two Arabs from East Jerusalem, may have commanded an Israeli car, said police spokesman Tamar Paul-Cohen. The prisoners were being held before trial on suspicion of criminal, not security charges, she said.

### Peres to visit Denmark Tuesday

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will visit Denmark on Tuesday at the end of his official visit to Scandinavia, officials said. During the one day visit here, Mr. Peres will hold talks with his Danish counterpart Niels Helveg Petersen, a foreign ministry statement said. Mr. Peres has already visited Sweden and Norway and was due to leave Iceland Sunday for a two-day stay in Finland. Denmark will be the final leg of Mr. Peres' visit to Nordic countries.

### Sacked cook gets \$136,000 from airport

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An Indian cook sacked from his job in Abu Dhabi's International Airport thought lady luck had turned against him — until he bought a ticket in the airport raffle on his way home and won \$136,000. Roque Pereira bought a ticket in the raffle from the duty free shop before boarding a flight to India last month. The result was announced in United Arab Emirates newspapers on Saturday. Mr. Pereira had won it all. "He was due to return to Abu Dhabi to work at the Forte Grand Hotel," Mr. Pereira's colleague, Jerry Fernandes, was quoted as saying by the semi-official Emirates News. "He has had a tough time and some bad luck losing his former job, but now I think he will be very happy."

### Epidemic hits Sudanese refugee camps

KAMPALA (AFP) — More than 20 people have died of meningitis and measles since an outbreak was reported at Sudanese refugee transit camps in northern Uganda, the official New Vision newspaper reported here Saturday. The paper said most of those affected by last week's outbreak were refugee children living in two transit camps, six kilometres from Koboko town, in squalid conditions. "Refugee families are crammed in poorly built grass-thatched huts, while others are sleeping under trees. Tents have been given to some but many have not yet received them," the paper said. By Thursday over 30,000 refugees living in the two camps had neither toilet facilities nor enough clean water, with the British charity Oxfam said to be still surveying possible water sources for the displaced Sudanese.

### Iraqis fire over heads of Kuwaiti workers

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A group of Iraqis fired gunshots over the heads of workers for a Kuwaiti company digging a trench along the new Kuwait-Iraqi border, the Interior Ministry said Sunday. The ministry said Kuwaiti security forces fired back, although it had not yet been established whether the Iraqis were soldiers or civilians. The shots were apparently fired into the air and designed to "provoke" the Kuwaitis, rather than kill them, the ministry said. Kuwait started digging the trench last June, and announced it would also build a sand wall on its new border with Iraq to stop Iraqi infiltration.

### Former minister killed in Sudan fighting

KHARTOUM (R) — The civilian chairman of a major state-owned company has been killed in south Sudan's civil war, apparently fighting as a volunteer alongside government troops. News of Mohammad Ahmad Omar's death was the first acknowledgement in Khartoum that fighting has restarted in the south in spite of a five-month-old ceasefire agreement. Official media gave no details but the government newspaper Al Ingaz Al Watani hailed Mr. Omar as "mujahid" — a holy warrior — and said he set an example of a faithful Muslim. "Mr. Omar was chairman of the board of Sudan's Gulf Arabic Company, which controls trade in an important export commodity. Previously minister of industry, he was the highest-ranking Sudanese official killed in the war. Government officials from Khartoum commonly go to the south for periods of service with the Popular Defence Forces aiding the regular army.

## Diplomats welcome Saudi council appointment

DUBAI (Agencies) — The head of Saudi Arabia's newly-appointed national assembly has said that it would work to fulfil King Fahd's expectations.

The king named 60 men on Friday night to the new Shura (consultative) council, which for the first time will enable Saudis from outside the ruling royal family to have a voice in the conduct of the oil-rich country government.

Diplomats in the region said the appointment of the council, while falling far short of Western concepts of democracy, was a good first step in a gradual modernisation process in Saudi Arabia.

The council's leader, former Justice Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Ibrahim Ben Jubir, said its members included specialists in military, health, business, history and cultural fields and were headed by experts in Sharia (Islamic law).

"I hope that we will always meet King Fahd's expectations," he said in remarks carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's two most holy shrines, is gov-

erned by strict Sharia laws. It executes convicted murderers, rapists and drug smugglers and enforces the Islamic dress code in public for women.

Western diplomats in the kingdom said the men appointed to the council, which will not hold public sessions, represented a mix of Saudi society and had been well received by ordinary citizens.

Members include the under-secretaries of the ministries of labour and trade, Ahmad Ben Hamad Al Yihya and Tawfiq Ibrahim Tawfiq respectively, businessman Suliman Abdul Rahman Al Solhi, antiquities professor Abdul Rahman Al Tayib Al Ansari and Fahd Al Ubri Al Harthi, a former French-educated editor-in-chief.

"They are a group which well represents the different sectors of the Saudi Society," one diplomat said.

The council will meet in ordinary session at least once every two weeks and Jubir said it would convene for the first time "after some administrative matters are completed."

The formation of the council,

which will have a four-year term, was one of the political reforms promised by the government in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war for women.

Diplomats said the deployment of hundreds of thousands of American and other non-Muslim soldiers in the conservative kingdom during the Gulf crisis ended Saudi Arabia's sense of isolation and accelerated a political reform process.

Senior members of the royal family have traditionally controlled the country's vast oil wealth, its huge foreign assets and its political and military affairs.

None of the members of the new assembly was apparently a direct descendant of King Fahd's father, the late King Abdul Aziz who created Saudi Arabia in 1932.

"You could call it defusing power as part of their new reforms," one diplomat said.

The king's decree limited the terms of Saudi cabinets to four years and said that the term of current serving ministers would end in two years unless the monarch ordered an extension.

It said the Shura council would

have a four-year term and should meet at least once every two weeks.

"The term of the council of ministers does not exceed four years," the decree said.

"The term of a minister does not exceed four years and his term ends at the end of this period unless a decree by the king extends it (the term)."

Diplomats in the region said the new measures seemed aimed at stopping ministers becoming too powerful in a country where ministers are known to serve for very long terms.

King Fahd's decree said cabinet members were not allowed to "buy or rent directly or indirectly any government property and are not allowed to sell or let their properties to the government and cannot practice any commercial or financial activities or be board members of any company."

The decree said no government department had authority over the council while members are not allowed to take any papers, systems or documents related to the council's work outside the council."

The council will meet in ordinary session at least once every two weeks and Jubir said it would convene for the first time "after some administrative matters are completed."

The formation of the council,

## Kuwait agrees to pause in major arms deals

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government agreed Saturday to pause before making further large weapons purchases after delegates charged that they needed more time to discuss how to prevent possible corruption.

"From a practical point of view the Ministry of Defence cannot stop spending on what was already bought," Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said.

"But on new things it is possible (not to spend)," he told a parliamentary debate on spending under a special allocation used for major weapons purchases and training programmes.

He asked the opposition-dominated house to complete the further discussions it sought as a matter of urgency.

The assembly voted to reject a recommendation from its financial and economic committee to approve a 1992 decree providing for 3.5 billion dinars (\$1.55 billion) for extraordinary military spending until 2004.

It returned the measure to the committee for more study and deputies demanded the government halt new weapons spending in the interim.

"I demand... the government be committed not to sign any new deals... until the assembly gives its opinion (about the decree)," Speaker and opposition veteran Ahmad Al Saadoun said.

Another parliamentary committee probing matters related to the 1990-91 Gulf crisis is investi-

## Aideed wants Carter as Somalia mediator

LONDON (AFP) — Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed said he would welcome mediation in the Somali conflict by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The statement from General Aideed's office, broadcast on the pro-Aideed Radio Mogadishu Saturday, said the Somali National Alliance (SNA) had heard that Mr. Carter had volunteered to act as mediator to help bring about peace.

"We welcome such a move by (former) President Jimmy Carter, while believing that the only solution is through dialogue and peaceful talks on the situation prevailing in Somalia," the statement said.

Gen. Aideed, whose SNA forces control much of southern Somalia, has been declared a wanted man by the United Nations. It has put a \$25,000 price on Gen. Aideed's head, blaming him for attacks on peacekeeping troops, particularly the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers June 5.

The "crisis" between Somalis and the U.N. peacekeeping force, UNOSOM II, which began June 5, was "deepening day by day," the statement said.

"We urge, encourage and officially appeal to the (former) president to involve himself and spare his precious time as soon as it is practicable."

The statement also urged Mr. Carter to involve other bodies, such as the Organisation of Afri-

can Unity (OAU), the Arab League and the European Community (EC) in the search for a solution to the conflict.

Earlier Saturday the SNA accused the United Nations of abandoning its humanitarian role and backing American interests in Somalia.

"It is common knowledge that the American-dominated United Nations Operation Somalia (UNOSOM II) has totally deviated from its supposed humanitarian and peacekeeping mission, and has instead taken sides in the civil war by giving special treatment to certain groups, while unduly accusing others of non-existent misdeeds," the SNA said in a statement.

The SNA said it was surprised at UNOSOM's appeal for additional troops from the international community for Somalia in order to disarm the warring clans in the country.

He said he had informed Iran of his country's "problems" and had asked it to "play more effective role" in the reconstruction of Somalia.

On Wednesday, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali called for 3,000 additional troops to beef up the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia



## Queen Noor celebrates birthday

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrates her 42nd birthday today (Monday).

For the past 15 years, Queen Noor has actively promoted socio-economic and human development in Jordan. On the international level, she has endeavoured to promote understanding of Jordanian society and culture, acting as a bridge between Jordan and the rest of the world.

On the national level, Queen Noor works in partnership with various organisations and individuals on development projects. In addition, the Queen initiates, directs and sponsors projects and activities through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which seeks to address the needs of individuals and communities and to enhance their standard of living.

The NHF acts as an umbrella organisation for projects designed as development models in the areas of education, culture, children's health, family and community development, women, environmental protection and the arts.

Through income-generating schemes in micro-enterprise projects, agriculture and crafts, the foundation encourages increased economic self-sufficiency as well as grassroots participation in planning and decision-making.

During the past year, Queen Noor addressed Jordan's increasing social and economic pressures in light of the Gulf crisis. Accelerating human development and economic growth through tailored projects have been a priority for the Queen.

In recognition of her humanitarian work in support of women and children in Jordan, Queen Noor was presented the Save the Children Distinguished Service Award in Washington D.C. last May.

In the field of education, the Queen launched the Jubilee School project, which is de-



signed to provide opportunities for students with outstanding academic records through extensive research and training programmes. The school has received technical assistance and support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the British Council, as well as from private institutions in Jordan and abroad.

The Jubilee School project has been a personal commitment of the Queen since she was entrusted with the project in 1985.

Queen Noor's efforts extended beyond the boundaries of Jordan, as she actively pursued her role to strengthen and enhance Jordan's international relations. During several working trips to the United States and Europe, the Queen addressed various interna-

tional institutions, highlighting Jordan's importance as a political, humanitarian and socio-economic model in the Middle East.

In the international arena, Queen Noor focused on furthering human rights, regional development and cooperation, and comprehensive peace. In her efforts to promote tourism into Jordan, she participated in the International Tourism Exchange in Berlin last March.

Queen Noor holds a degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University.

She has received honorary doctorates from many universities as well as international awards for her achievements in promoting human development and global understanding.

The Queen is also patron of several national and international organisations.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nursing conference to open Sept. 13

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, an international nursing conference will open at the University of Jordan on Sept. 13. The conference, which will be held under the motto "bridging the gap between theoretical work and practice," is organised by the university's Faculty of Nursing. Rapporteur of the conference's preparatory committee Sawas Al Majali said the participants in the two-day conference will discuss 35 working papers on theoretical and practical issues in nursing. The conference will include a seminar on women's issues in Jordan, Dr. Majali said. She added that the working papers at the conference will be presented by nursing specialists and experts from Arab and European countries, as well as the United States.

### Therapy college board reviews role

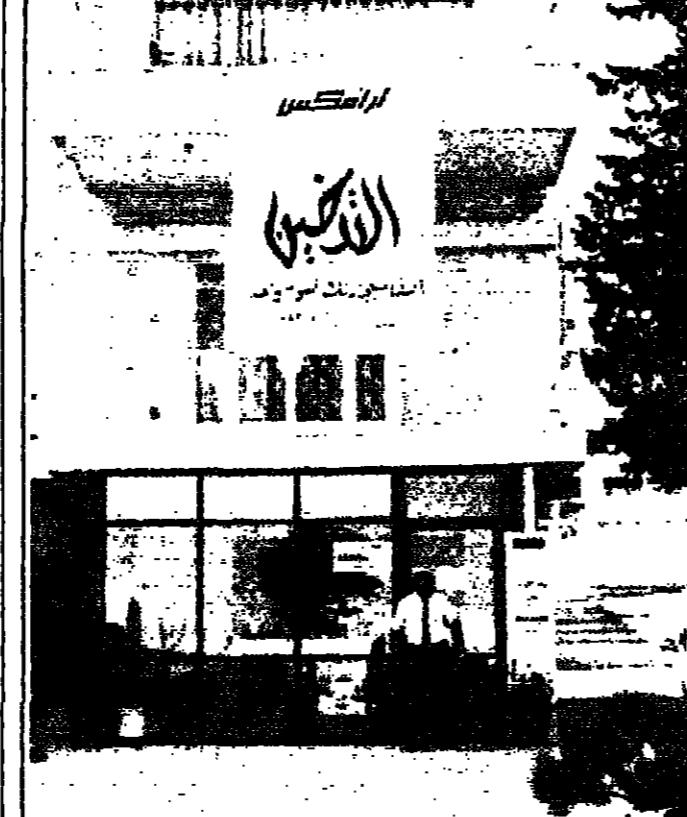
AMMAN (Petra) — The Board of Directors of the Professional Therapy College Sunday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Her Highness Princess Majda Ra'ad, the chairman of the college's board. The board stressed the need for identifying professional therapy, and defining its role in psychological rehabilitation. They also reviewed the college's activities. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas and Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqaq. The college was established in 1988 as one of the projects of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS). It offers students three years of training, after which they are awarded diplomas in professional therapy.

### Public holiday Aug. 30

AMMAN (Petra) — Monday August 30, marking the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, will be observed as a public holiday, according to an announcement by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday. The announcement said that all government departments and public institutions will remain closed on that day. It requested that all ministries and institutions organise celebrations marking this holy event.

### Radio, T.V. programmes to be aired at schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — With the start of the 1993-94 scholastic year, the Ministry of Education is preparing radio and television educational programmes for school students. A ministry announcement Sunday said the programmes will be aired beginning the first week of September. A timetable for the educational broadcasts was sent to the education departments in the various governorates, so that the school can adjust their schedules accordingly, enabling the students to benefit from the programmes, said the announcement. At least 1.35 million students Saturday returned to school following the summer holidays. About 52,000 teachers are employed in the public and private schools, said the ministry, noting that the increase in the number of school students this year is between four and five per cent.



### 2 international firms plan 'Smoke-Free Day'

AMMAN (J.T.) — All ARAMEX and Marriott employees will Tuesday put out their cigarettes for one day as part of a special "Smoke-Free Day" celebration, which will culminate in a presentation by the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society President and cardiologist Zuhair Malhas, along with his colleagues, Jamal Sunna and Azmi Sharaiha will speak about effects of smoking on one's health and how to quit.

Participants in the "Smoke-Free Day" will donate the cost of a pack of cigarettes to support the society and Al Amal Cancer Centre.

Prizes and certificates will be awarded to those who quit smoking for the day.

ing to an ARAMEX spokesperson.

The "Smoke-Free Day" is one of the activities supported by the National Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society.

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Nashaat and Shawkat Al Alousi at Alia Art Gallery; includes 30 paintings depicting popular life and national scenery in Iraq, as well as Arabic calligraphy.

Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbelia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.

Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan

## Heat wave to stay on for 4 more days

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The present heat wave is expected to continue for at least the next four days, with daytime temperatures ranging between 34 and 36 centigrade, according to the Department of Meteorology.

A department official told the Jordan Times that although in some areas of Jordan the recent weather is slightly hotter than the annual average, generally this is normal summer weather for Jordan.

The heat wave is caused by dry hot wind from the Indian sub-continent, Iran and Iraq, noted the official.

Because of the current heat-wave and reported cases of cholera in neighbouring Arab countries, the Ministry of Health is taking strict precautionary measures to protect the public.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday said that not a single cholera case exist in Jordan, but the ministry is taking extra measures to prevent the disease from entering the country.

Ministry teams are conducting large-scale inspections of water trucks to ensure that the water is free of any germs, said the minister in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

Noting that cleanliness plays a major role in stemming the spread of the disease, Dr. Malhas said that the ministry has worked out a strict timetable for controlling bakeries, confectionery shops and other food stores to ensure they are abiding by health safety regulations.

Referring to typhoid, the minister said that the disease exists, but not a single case has been reported for the past five weeks in Jordan.

## Majali urges building railway system

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan should have its own railway system and such an endeavour should be implemented in cooperation with the private sector, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday.

"We want to have railways and we will give priority to building them to link Jordanian cities," said Dr. Majali during a visit to the Ministry of Transport where he met with Minister Salman Al Tarawneh and senior staff.

A preliminary study should first be made and then offered to the private sector firms to conduct a feasibility study before this project can be implemented, added the prime minister.

Noting that road accidents in Jordan are costing the country some JD 100 million annually, Dr. Majali said the Ministry of Transport should opt for increased public transportation mainly benefiting the limited-income groups.

He said Jordan should reduce its reliance on private cars as much as possible.

The only railway in Jordan is the Hijaz line built during the Ottoman rule to link Damascus with the holy cities of the Hijaz.

Part of the railway today links Amman with Damascus, another links Amman with Maan and a third links the phosphate mines in the south with Aqaba.

Dr. Majali also suggested that large road vehicle weights should be controlled and maritime trans-



portation system at a meeting with officials at the Ministry of Transport (Petra photo)

and each ministry is a servant to the public and not a means for imposing authority on the public. This is our concept of public services and each ministry should dedicate its task to fulfil this concept.

As the government directs its plans towards enhancing the concept of decentralisation, the Ministry of Transport and other ministries should be flexible, transfer part of the authority to the private sector of the transport field.

## Jordan Press Foundation to double capital

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Foundation Company, which publishes the Jordan Times and its sister Arabic daily Al Ra'i, is doubling its JD 1 million capital through a flotation of shares to finance an ambitious expansion programme.

The foundation has nearly 350 people on its regular payroll.

In addition to the new printing machine, the company is also ordering new equipment which will automate the packing and bundling of newspapers, a time-consuming job if done manually.

The foundation, which was established in the early seventies, registered a gross turnover of JD 5.5 million and a net profit of JD 1.5 million in 1992. It distributed a 22 per cent dividend on stock, a rate which placed it in the top brackets of public limited companies in Jordan.

The JD 1 par-value share of the company is being traded at around JD 20 in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) up from around JD 4 in 1990.

The government-guided Social Security Corporation (SSC) and Jordan Investments Corporation own 61 per cent of the shares: five to 10 per cent are in the AFM, employees own five per cent and the rest



Mohammad Al Amad

is held by the founders of the establishment.

Unlike the Jordan Press and Publishing Company, owners of Al Dustour, the second largest newspaper in the Kingdom, the Jordan Press Foundation shares were not fully returned to their former owners when the government relinquished editorial control over all daily newspapers after a 17-month take-over in 1989.

Mr. Amad said the new machine, "which will take Al Ra'i to the edge of the 21st century," can print up to 64 full pages in one go. The present Al Ra'i machine could print only 32 pages, which explains the current 16-22 page "supplement" that accompanies the paper every week day.

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## Jordan to help Sudan develop water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation from the Sudanese ministry of irrigation and water resources has expressed interest in benefiting from Jordan's experiments and experiences in developing water resources.

Speaking at a meeting here Sunday with Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Kakkash, the head of the visiting delegation, Izzedin Ahmad Yousef, said Jordan has made major strides in the development of water resources and Sudan would like to benefit from them.

"The Sudanese ministry of irrigation and water resources is keen on launching joint ventures with Jordan in water-related fields and wishes to embark on cooperation in training of personnel," added Mr. Yousef.

Mr. Kakkash expressed Jordan's readiness to provide expertise to Sudan and assist in carrying out its related projects.

"The ministry of water and irrigation welcomes the idea of

willing to provide expertise to Sudanese personnel and is willing to dispatch Jordanian specialists to Sudan to help it carry out irrigation and water projects," noted the minister.

Mr. Kakkash extended an invitation to his Sudanese counterpart to visit Jordan to discuss all aspects of bilateral cooperation.

He told the delegation, which Sunday concluded a five-day visit to Jordan and a tour of water projects, that the Kingdom was

endeavours in this field.

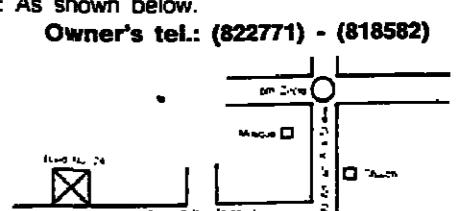
The Sudanese official brief the minister on the outcome of his tour of various projects in Jordan and praised the minister's endeavours in this field.

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A street vendor shelters himself from the scorching sun in downtown Amman (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

## Jordan Times

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## Noxious fumes, impassable authorities

**TUCH TALK**, many articles and a series of television programmes have been devoted to environmental concerns in the country, but very little action has been taken to solve what could be a big problem nearing crisis. Take the latest revelation that pollution of our atmosphere, produced as a result of illicit car emissions, has reached dangerous proportions. There are more than 400,000 vehicles in the country, 80 per cent of which are polluting the air that we breathe in the capital alone. Everybody seems to pass the buck when comes to addressing the problem, mainly by refusing to accept responsibility for it. The petroleum refinery authorities obviously feel blameless and not responsible for the black smoke that spews from automobile engines of cars. The refinery either puts the blame on lack of maintenance or car engines or on regularities practised by gasoline station managers in order to make a fast buck. While these defensive submissions are valid to a certain extent, they fail to explain the entire crisis. The heavy contents of sulphur and lead in Jordanian gasoline is the sole responsibility of the refinery. Jordanian drivers have no choice here to fill up their tanks.

At a time when other nations, even less affluent than ourselves have already outlawed the use of leaded gasoline, Jordan has yet to recognise the problem associated with sulphur and lead, as if the lives of Jordanians are less relevant than material profits. In other and more sophisticated economic terms, the cost of continued use of health damaging fuels obviously exceeds any immediate gains that could be realised by the use of adulterated fuel energy sources. This is not the sole responsibility of quarters in the country. The police are simply not doing anything about the problem. Name us one occasion when traffic police stopped a car because it was heavily polluting the air.

The concerned government departments also appear to be derelict when it comes to their duties. We should hold them accountable for not carrying out random checks on gasoline depots or not engaging the refinery company in serious dialogue about improving the quality of Jordanian fuel. Still, all Jordanians assume some responsibility for destroying the ecology of their country and the health of our citizens by not heeding the basic knowledge and warnings about pollution. The government should take this crisis seriously. It is to start by creating a multi-dimensional ad hoc committee at the highest level possible, with a view to submitting the right proposals for stopping the slide. Once we know what should be done, action should flow on all fronts.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SEEMS that Israel has not yet learnt the lessons of the past and still intent on launching aggression on Lebanon, not heeding the military attacks launched on its forces by the resistance groups, id Al Dastour Arabic daily. The paper said that if Israel continues to behave in the same manner, it would risk losing more its troops and if it does not stop launching acts of aggression on the Lebanon territory, it risks causing further tension in the sole region, endangering the peace talks, said the paper. At the Israeli military is now preparing yet another large scale military campaign against the resistance forces in southern Lebanon and if another attack comes, there can be no doubt about its negative effects on the peace process, said the daily. Israel realises that its continued aggression on Lebanon can be no means stem the resistance activity; therefore, it continued its attack on this Arab country can solve nothing, noted the daily. said that with the fall of nine soldiers in one single resistance now directed at the Israeli military, the Israeli leaders and the commanders of the Israeli forces have been thrown into confusion. Further embarrassment is expected, should the Israeli issue their acts of aggression, warned the daily. It called on the countries keen on preserving peace to try to bridle Israel's ambitions so that the peace process can proceed unhindered and secure peace in the region.

WAT AL SHAAB daily drew attention to the fact that the S-led Western campaign against the Muslims is continuing unabated and echoed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call on the Arabs and Muslims to join forces and work together to confront the common challenges. Unless this nation looks after its own affairs, other nations of the world will be shaping its destiny, against its own interests, warned the paper. Prince Hassan has called on Muslims and Arabs to unify their ranks in the face of the spect campaign directed against their faith, said the paper. He so urged the Arabs and Muslims to contribute to the creation of a so-called new world order and not to leave their national interests to other nations to tamper with, added the daily. The story and the cultural heritage of the Arab and Islamic nations are rich and can be invoked to benefit the Arabs and Muslims in confronting the common challenges of the day, the paper added. The paper echoed the Prince's call for mobilising scientific, cultural and other potentials at the disposal of the Arabs and Muslims for the sake of protecting the interests of the coming generations.

## Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

### The twain shall never meet

Israel is on record as against yielding East Jerusalem. It has become an article of faith for all Israeli governments, be they headed by the Labour or by the Likud parties, that Jerusalem is indivisible for all times, come what may. The Arab side has taken this solemn proclamation rather too seriously, judging by the panic that such a declared Israeli stance causes among the Arab ranks, especially, of course, the Palestinians who stand to gain or lose most on the issue of the Holy City.

I personally have a hunch that Israel is still prepared to make concessions on East Jerusalem. This subjective intuition is reinforced every time I have an occasion to visit East Jerusalem and notice the dire neglect it suffers under the same Israeli municipality that governs West Jerusalem. East and West Jerusalem are still two different worlds in every sense of the word. For all intents and purposes, the twain shall never meet. There is no way that the cultural and religious gaps, not to mention other differences that separate Jews and Arabs in the city, can be bridged, as far as one can see. East Jerusalem is clearly a Middle Eastern town and West Jerusalem is obviously a western metropolis.

What is even more striking about the pious pronouncements that Jerusalem is united for good is the lack of evidence that the Israeli authorities are interested in the least to elevate conditions in Arab Jerusalem to anything that is compatible with Jewish Jerusalem. Take for example the simplest examples, the streets and types of construction, when allowed, that exist in the eastern part of Jerusalem.

Recently I went to visit Bab Al Zahira cemetery which is almost in the heart of Jerusalem. The condition of the cemetery was disgraceful to any authority that pretends to exercise jurisdiction over it. Money could not be the reason that sank this famous cemetery to the level it is now. Cleaning the filth and dirt from it would not have cost more than a few hundred dinars. The Israeli municipality obviously does not give a hoot about the Islamic burial place and the Islamic Waqf people care even less. If the way such an East Jerusalem place is maintained is an example of the Waqf diligence or a reflection of the Israeli purported total jurisdiction over Jerusalem, then East Jerusalem, its shrines and public places stand to suffer even more in the future. The streets of East Jerusalem, especially those that connect with the

Jerusalem - Jericho road, are so neglected in contrast with the ones in West Jerusalem, that it is obvious that there is a determined Israeli policy to distinguish the eastern section of the city from the western one. And whereas West Jerusalem is generally clean and orderly, the same cannot be said about the Arab side.

I have personally concluded, therefore, that Israel has no intention to remain permanently in Arab Jerusalem. The blatant neglect of every facet of life on the Arab side, coupled with the lack of a policy to integrate the two parts, has convinced me that there is a silent policy reflecting the deep Israeli thinking that in the final analysis they would have to give us East Jerusalem even though its environs, for strategic reasons, will obviously continue to be held by Israel.

If one uses this criterion for judging Israeli intentions, as far as other occupied territories, it becomes easy to determine which part Israel will be prepared to withdraw from, within the framework of a peace treaty, and which part it is not going to relinquish. Areas, towns and cities left to their miseries and underdevelopment will be returned. Areas, towns and cities that have been accorded a privileged treatment will not be easy to return. East Jerusalem belongs to the former category. So its return to an Arab jurisdiction is a prognosis that I personally believe in. Future events will, hopefully, prove me right.

Drawing further on this analogy, Jericho and Gaza Strip are prime examples of purposeful Israeli neglect as a prelude to their return to Arab sovereignty. No wonder, then, that the Rabin government is more than accommodating to the idea of a precipitous Israeli withdrawal from such territories even before there exists a binding peace treaty between the parties. The same can be said about such cities and towns as Nablus, Jenin, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron. Yet the environs of these Palestinian areas are thoroughly and systematically settled with an Israeli presence and they are not likely to withdraw from them. The new network of highways that links Israel proper with these environs, as distinguished from the conceded Arab cities and towns, reinforces the proposition that Israeli forces are not prepared to vacate these *de facto* annexed territories.

This is how I see the map of the future unless a miracle or two occurs.

### Recession, Balkan war cast pall over Europe

By Arthur Allen  
The Associated Press

BONN, Germany — Peace, freedom and prosperity, the bywords of European union, ring less clearly now. The banner of gold stars on a blue field, heralding tolerance and wealth, is ragged at the edges.

There is war in the Balkans and recession at home. Governments throughout western Europe greet refugees with "no vacancy" signs.

Plans for a single currency and a common foreign policy are in limbo. European leaders could not stop the dismemberment of Bosnia or keep speculators from derailing plans for a joint currency-exchange system.

Twenty-two million Europeans are out of work. Economists describe the unemployment as "structural," meaning they don't know what to do about it.

In the search for scapegoats, foreigners are increasingly under attack in Greece, Germany and Britain. Crime is on the rise nearly everywhere.

Hans Magnus Enzenburger, the German essayist, sees Bosnia as only the largest of many civil wars being fought by emphyteusitic bandits in Europe. He points to Solingen, where five Turks were burned to death May 29 by young fanatics.

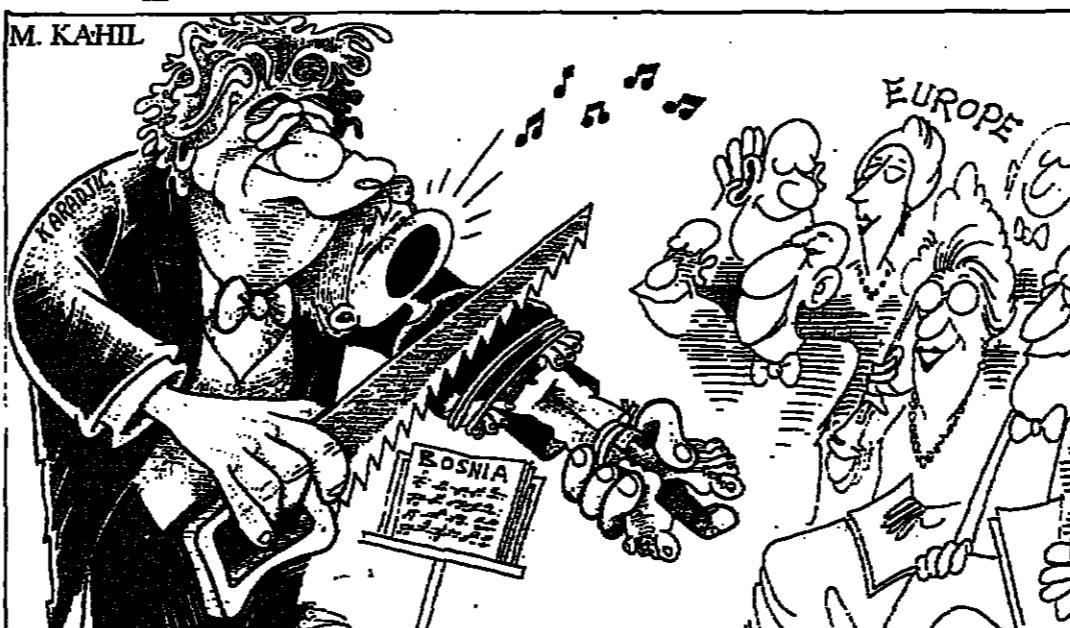
"We're fooling ourselves if we think we have peace just because we can cling to our scrap of bread without getting shot down by a sniper," Mr. Enzenburger wrote in *Der Spiegel* magazine in June.

"Civil war doesn't come from outside, like a virus. It's an endogenous process. It's only that our civil wars haven't reached critical mass."

The last time that happened in Europe was after World War I, and the continent soon found itself at total war again. Need the process repeat itself?

"Democracy is much stronger than it was in the 1920s," said Dominique Moisy, French director of the French Institute of International Relations. "But nothing is irreversible."

In Germany, the only Euro-



pean land that was divided between West and East, integrating the two has thrown the entire continent into turmoil.

The \$90 billion Germany spends each year to subsidise the integration has kept interest rates high everywhere else, frustrating economic recovery. Endless meetings in Brussels have produced no solution.

"There is a loss of faith in Europe," Mr. Moisy said. "People don't believe in these ideals any more. The feeling is that each country is giving priority to its own needs."

One need felt by most Europeans is to secure their borders against immigrants. Over 1 million foreigners have entered western Europe the past two years.

Germany, which spent \$3.6 billion last year caring for 438,000 asylum applicants, slammed the door with a law passed May 28.

France followed in July, and Interior Minister Charles Pasqua announced a goal of "zero immigration."

Despite the new German laws, more people keep trying to get in. About 45,000 illegal immigrants were apprehended in 1992, but 43,000 were detained in just the first half of this year. For every one caught, police estimate five

are missed.

Labour Ministry officials found illegal Romanian construction workers who were being locked up on the site every night, indicating some employers exploit the illegals.

Concern about illegal aliens can lead to violence. About 500 crimes against foreigners were reported in Germany in 1991, more than 2,000 last year, and figures for 1993 are running higher. Race-related crimes also have increased in Britain.

Most violence against foreigners is committed spontaneously by embittered youths rather than by organised neo-Nazi groups.

"In earlier times, young workers grew up with the utopian belief that their monotonous and hard work would bring them up to the social ladder," said a study published by Trier University sociologists. "Today, the machine's apprentice knows he'll never be a bank director."

Prospects are particularly grim in Eastern Germany, where fewer than one-tenth of the 4 million workers remain on the job at crumbling plants put in trust by the government after unification in 1990.

With the cold war enemy gone,

Mr. Mueller said, "we don't have any one left to whom we can delegate our hatred."

Intellectuals have expressed worry that the ideas of extreme nationalists and ethnic purists are increasingly acceptable.

In a July 13 manifesto in *Le Monde*, 40 authors decried what they called the willingness of respectable journals to publish diatribes against Islam or arguments that the holocaust was a hoax. Among the signers were Umberto Eco, author of "The Name of the Rose."

Mr. Moisy concluded: "Right now, we are overwhelmed by pessimism. Nothing is more treacherous."

## Lagos journalists to strike to protest government efforts to suppress them

By Michelle Faul  
The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — The boy darted among the cars gridlocked on a highway, peddling photocopies of a banned magazine with a bold headline: "Babangida entrenches his dictatorship."

Both buyers and seller were risking arrest, but business was booming. This nation is as hungry for information as Gen. Ibrahim Babangida is intent on suppressing it.

Ever since he derailed Nigeria's move towards democracy, the ruler has turned up the heat on a historically rambunctious industry that has wreaked and needed rulers since the 1850s, when the first Nigerian newspaper antagonised British colonisers.

With Gen. Babangida now jailing journalists, closing papers and issuing restrictive new laws with abandon, one of Africa's oldest news industries is struggling for survival.

On Thursday, journalists in the capital called a one-day strike for Tuesday to protest government efforts to suppress the media.

Ralph Akineleye, professor of mass communications at the University of Lagos, told a meeting of the 8,000-member Nigerian union of journalists last week that they have to fight for democracy if they want their industry to survive.



twice the cover price.

Those prices are steep for a nation in which the average monthly salary is the equivalent of \$27 a month.

At Ogba-Ijaiye bus terminal, Akpan was even charging 13 cents for a 15-minute period of the Lagos Guardian.

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**Gen. Babangida was once heralded as a saviour of the press when he ousted the previous military ruler in 1985. Now, with his jailing journalists, closing papers and using restrictive new laws with abandon, some papers have been forced into self-censorship. Others have been forced underground.**

The news industry is by no means totally pure. It is common for journalists, like many other people, to take bribes. When Mr. Akpan gave a news conference after the elections, Nigerian journalists were given \$18.

Ironically, Gen. Babangida was once heralded as a saviour of the press when he ousted the previous military ruler in 1985.

The general quickly repealed a decree that made it a crime to "embarrass" a public official in print and freed several jailed journalists.

Nigerian journalists say the honeymoon ended on Oct. 19, 1986, the day Dele Giwa, editor of the crusading magazine *News-watch*, was killed by a bomb.

The Constitutional Rights Project, a human rights group, says military intelligence chief Col. Halilu Akilu had called Giwa's wife asking for directions to the editor's home.

The next day, Giwa's son took delivery of a parcel marked "from the office of the C-in-C" shorthand for commander in chief, Babangida.

Giwa opened the parcel while he ate breakfast and said, "this must be from the president." They were his last words.

## LETTERS

### Hope for better representation

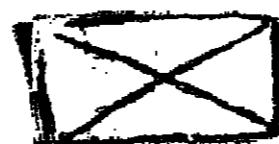
To the Editor:

The article by Mariam Shahin "16 political parties oppose one-person, one-vote 'on its own'" (Jordan Times, Aug. 17, 1992) included our party, the Unionist Arab Democratic (Al Wa'ad) amongst the parties rejecting the amendment to the Election Law.

Therefore, we would like to correct your information which was not obtained or declared by our party. We in Al Wa'ad Party, have suggested amendments to the Election Law which is related to favour and agree with the one-man, one-vote formula, even if it came on its own, as a step forward, hoping it will eventually be followed by two integral elements, namely the introduction of smaller districts equal to the number of MP's and a runoff that, we believe, would ensure a better representation of the electorate.

Mahmoud Abdallat,  
Spokesman,  
Unionist Arab Democratic Party,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Bottle caps spawn nightmare for Pepsi-Cola

By Ruben Alabastro  
Reuter

**NIÑA** — A soft drink sales campaign supposed to turn a few lucky Filipinos into peso millionaires has turned into a nightmare that won't go away for U.S. giant Pepsi-Cola.

Less than a month after launching a promotional numbers game, Pepsi has spent about 300 million pesos (\$11 million) to reward off thousands of claims from "winning" consumers and repair shattered image in this vanished Southeast Asian nation.

The promotion offered up to a million pesos (\$37,000) in free cash prizes to holders of tops marked with three-digit winning numbers. Pepsi's nightmare began on May 25 last when it announced a million-dollar prize for any one holding a top bearing the number 349.

The company realised the intensity of its mistake when thousands of jubilant people claimed they had won. A million people eventually claimed their prize. But Pepsi used to pay, saying the wrong number had been announced because of a computer error.

Trinidad Castro, a 56-year-old

food vendor, was watching television in a neighbour's house when the number was announced.

For nearly two decades, she had lived in a wooden push cart which her out-of-work husband turned into a shack by slapping a roof over it and parking it in a muddy Manila sidewalk.

Mrs. Castro ducked back into her push cart and brought out a sackful of Pepsi crowns, peering into the number on each cap.

Number 349 gleamed like diamonds on two of the more than 500 crowns she had collected.

Mrs. Castro was suddenly looking at two million pesos and a new life — or so she thought.

"I kept jumping and jumping until my blood pressure rose. At last, we could have a house of our own and I could buy my husband a jeepney (passenger mini-bus) he had always wanted," she recalled.

Similar scenes of jubilation were taking place that evening in thousands of homes around the country.

"I drank six bottles of Pepsi every day. That's how I got fat like this," said Encar San Miguel, 31, who also had two one-million peso crowns in her possession.

The first thing Mrs. San Miguel thought of was building a small

(\$8.5 million).

Ms. Vera said Pepsi's sales had recovered and its market share had returned to 21 per cent.

"We had to woo the consumers again and make them see we didn't intend to defraud anyone," she said. "We're still here and we're here to stay definitely."

Mrs. Castro's hopes for a house of her own and Mrs. San Miguel's dream of a funeral parlour for her husband have not dimmed.

Mrs. Castro's million-peso crowns are in a small tin which she keeps beside her when she sleeps. The caps are wrapped in wads of cotton so that cockroaches and rats cannot scratch them.

"Our only hope is that God does not sleep," said Lucila Mendoza, 59, who keeps her 349 cap under lock and key. She said she had no intention of trading it for the 500-peso consolation prize Pepsi had offered.

"I'll keep the cap with me, maybe make a pendant out of it and hang it around my neck for as long as I live," Ms. Mendoza said.

"Later on I can say it's a remembrance of that day long ago when, for once, I thought I had become a millionaire."

## Polar bear casts doubt on Ice Age theories

By Doug Meldren  
The Associated Press

**SLO**, Norway — A polar bear killed about 60,000 years ago in an Arctic cave is challenging theories about the Ice Age because it seems to have died in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

Bones from the bear, discovered in Norway's Arctic, are

likely the oldest ever found, said zoologist Rolf Lie.

But scientists now wonder what the polar bear and other animals were doing in northern Norway when the area was supposed to be sealed under an icecap that would have made such life impossible.

"The most remarkable thing is that there were animals living there at all 60,000 years ago. That would mean that the area wasn't

under an icecap as we believed," Mr. Lie, of the University of Bergen, said by telephone this week.

Mr. Lie said geologists believe Norway was encased in ice during the last glacial epoch, beginning about 80,000 years ago and ending about 10,000 years ago.

Finds like the polar bear bones accidentally unearthed by two construction workers in 1991 at Tysfjord — about 200 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle — cast doubt on that view.

Dating techniques this spring confirmed that the bear's remains are at least 42,000 — and likely 60,000 — years old. In any case, the bear lived in northern Norway in the depth of the ice age, and is older than any polar bear Mr. Lie said he could find reported in world scientific literature.

He and other scientists probing the chalk-filled Tysfjord grotto and nearby sites have found a bounty of clues about the Ice Age, including the bones of two other polar bears that were about 20,000 years old, a 32,000-year-old wolf jaw as well as seals, mice, ants and pollen.

"We have a lot of work left," said Mr. Lie. "But the abundance of animal and plant life suggests that north Norway was relatively warm for most or all of the Ice Age. It could not have been continuously covered with ice as was believed," he said.

He said Ice Age polar bears, Arctic fox and seals found in the region could have thrived in a very cold climate, although not in a wasteland of snow and ice.

The remains of the wolf, field mice, ants and tree pollen suggest an even warmer climate since those species could not have withstood the prolonged and extreme cold of an Ice Age.

"The wolf needs large prey like

reindeer," said Mr. Lie. Reindeer, in turn, must be able to graze on bare ground. "The summers must have been relatively warm and the winters not excessively cold, maybe like the northern coast of Greenland today," said Mr. Lie.

A team lead by Mr. Lie and geologist Stein-Erik Lauritzen is excavating the sites, partly to see if humans also lived in the area earlier than believed. Scientists now believe the first humans settled in Norway about 12,000 years ago as the ice receded.

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"We have a lot of work left," said Mr. Lie. "But the abundance of animal and plant life suggests that north Norway was relatively warm for most or all of the Ice Age. It could not have been continuously covered with ice as was believed," he said.

He said Ice Age polar bears, Arctic fox and seals found in the region could have thrived in a very cold climate, although not in a wasteland of snow and ice.

The remains of the wolf, field mice, ants and tree pollen suggest an even warmer climate since those species could not have withstood the prolonged and extreme cold of an Ice Age.

"The wolf needs large prey like

reindeer," said Mr. Lie. Reindeer, in turn, must be able to graze on bare ground. "The summers must have been relatively warm and the winters not excessively cold, maybe like the northern coast of Greenland today," said Mr. Lie.

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## Stock markets across Asia zoom to record highs

HONG KONG (AFP) — Stock markets across Asia are soaring to all-time highs owing to improved corporate earnings, economic optimism, and in some cases, clearing of murky political clouds.

Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng index has surged 40 per cent since the beginning of the year to a record high of 7,605.26 points on Thursday, fourth straight

Analysts attribute the market's stellar performance to strong annual corporate profits and anticipation of Sino-British agreement on financing of the British colony's new airport.

However analysis warn that Hang Seng cannot climb forever. The market needs a correction, "John gate, analysts at Crescendo Far East Ltd., said, adding a pullback was not imminent as U.S. institutions continued to pour money into the colony's bourse.

Philippine stocks, which have posted the biggest percentage gains in Asia so far this year, shot to record highs earlier this month.

On Aug. 3, the composite index at the larger Manila stock exchange hit 1,783.30 points and, after corrective periods, may rise as high as 25,000 points by the end of the year," said Hiroshi Maeki, an analyst at Dai-Ichi Securities Company Ltd.

Malaysia's key stock gauge has soared 27 per cent since the start of 1993. On Friday, stronger-than-expected corporate earnings propelled the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange composite index of 85 stocks to a record finish of 805.51.

In the next two months, the composite index could test the 850 mark," said Tan Teng Boo, chairman of stocks consultancy Capital Dynamics.

Singapore's key Straits Times industrials index has jumped 29 per cent since the start of the year to a record high of 1,972.27 points Friday, its fourth all-time high in five trading days.

"There is nothing holding the market back," Paul Lodge, of Melbourne-based brokerage Aucton.

The 30-share Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) index has climbed 38.6 per cent from a low so far this year of

1,880.06 points on April 27.

The BSE crashed from an all-time high of 4,546.58 points on April 2, 1992 after investigators closed in on a \$1.3 billion securities scam in which some bankers and brokers colluded to siphon off public funds to play stocks.

The recent recovery follows a promising agricultural output, a dramatic 27 per cent surge in first quarter exports and increased foreign investment in stocks. Inflation is under control at six per cent.

"Good times have returned to the BSE," said underwriter Ajit Ambani.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei stock average index of 225 shares closed Friday at 20,607.26 points, a healthy gain of 22 per cent since the end of last year.

The Nikkei remains well below its record high of 38,915.87 in late 1989. Analysts say the slide which bottomed just over a year ago at about 16,000 points has stemmed from a long series of financial scandals and a flagging economy.

The Nikkei is expected to reach 22,500 points next month and, after corrective periods, may rise as high as 25,000 points by the end of the year," said Hiroshi Maeki, an analyst at Dai-Ichi Securities Company Ltd.

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## Japan surplus could destroy world economy, trade minister says

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new trade minister warned the country Sunday that it must slash its huge trade surplus or risk destroying the world economy.

"If Japan's trade surplus continues, it will be one factor leading to the destruction of the world economy," Hiroshi Kumagai, minister for international trade and industry, said on television.

Takeshi Nagano, chairman of the influential Japan Federation of Employers' Association (Nikkei), said a high yen would damage not only export-oriented companies but even those firms that rely primarily on domestic demand.

Trade Minister Kumagai reaffirmed that the new coalition government under Morihiro Hosokawa planned to draft by late September a package of fiscal and monetary measures aimed at boosting domestic demand and reducing the huge trade surplus.

He said one of the monetary steps could be a reduction in the official discount rate, already at a record low 2.5 per cent.

"I think that the currency market is sending a warning that if Japan continues with the same behaviour, it will be in trouble," Mr. Kumagai said in a debate.

Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Minister Manabu Kubota, also taking part in the debate, indicated that unless Japan took action to reduce its surplus the yen could rise again.

The trade minister said he was in favour of an income tax cut for the next fiscal year, starting April 1994, as another measure to prop up an economy in one of its worst postwar downturns.

Mr. Kumagai did not specify the extent of the income tax cut but business leader Nagano and at least one leader in the ruling coalition have called for reductions of five trillion yen (\$48 billion).

Mr. Kumagai said as well as stimulus measures, deregulation would help cure Japan's sluggish economy, a soaring trade surplus and a soaring yen.

The former cabinet promised to cut the number of government regulations to below 10,000 (from the current 10,942), he said. "That's our first goal... then the Ministry of International Trade and Industry will take the lead in further cutting its own regulations (numbering almost 2,000)."

growth in the Japanese and world economies," Treasury Under-Secretary Lawrence Summers said in a statement Thursday.

A leading Japanese businessman, in an interview with the daily Mainichi Shimbun published Sunday, said a rate of 100 yen to the dollar would "doom most of Japanese industry."

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## Clinton steps up sales drive for health care reform

MARSHALL VINEYARD, Massachusetts (R) — President Bill Clinton said Saturday health-care reform was essential to the United States' future well-being and urged all Americans to rally behind his drive to revamp a "broken system."

"Reforming our health-care system is not only the best way to reduce costs, rein in our federal deficit and provide security for our citizens, it's also good for our economy," he said. "If we really want to straighten out the economy and live more prosperous lives we have to reform the nation's health-care system."

Seeking to preempt his critics, Mr. Clinton declared the price of doing nothing was unacceptable.

"Doing nothing means more and more Americans losing their coverage. Doing nothing means allowing insurers to dictate prices, charging whatever they want to whomever they want. Doing nothing means continuing a system in which anonymous bureaucrats peer into every hospital and doctors' offices and

"This is a cause in which all Americans must enlist. A cause in which all

in which special interest must put aside a broken system and become a lobby for the American people and the American future," the president said in the speech.

Mr. Clinton, who made health care reform one of the cardinal issues in his 1992 campaign for the White House, gave no details on the cost of his plan although some Republican critics claim the price could be as much as \$100 billion.

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## Standard Chartered enters interest-free banking

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Standard Chartered Bank has become the first foreign incorporated bank in Malaysia to offer interest-free banking services, the central bank, Bank Negara, said Saturday.

The bank's participation reflects foreign banks' recognition of Islamic methods of banking and their confidence in them as a "viable business proposition," it said in a statement.

Interest-free banking services are being provided by 13 other local financial institutions, including Bank Islam Malaysia BHD, Malaysia's only Islamic bank.

"Hopefully, aspirations to bring Islamic banking into the mainstream banking in Malaysia would be fulfilled soon," Bank Negara said.

Muslims form about half the country's population of 18 million. The Koran forbids usury which has been interpreted as meaning the payment of any interest on deposits or loans.

Under Malaysia's "Islamic banking concept," depositors share is the bank's profits, and borrowers receive joint-venture equity financing and share their profits with the bank.

More foreign banks are likely to offer such services.

"We have received positive response from the other foreign-based financial institutions in Malaysia," Bank Negara adviser Nor Mohamad Yakcop was quoted by the New Sunday Times newspaper as saying.

"This is a good sign as Bank Negara has not made it mandatory for these or Malaysian-based financial institutions to offer interest-free banking services," he said.

Mr. Nor said an Islamic interbank money market operation was being developed to link financial institutions as well as players in the Islamic banking system.

"When it is ready, Malaysia will be the first country in the world to have such an operation along Islamic lines," he said.

## Party chief says graft threatens China's communism

BEIJING (R) — Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin said Saturday rampant corruption could topple Chinese communism and even the state itself, and ordered swift punishment for party and government bribe-takers.

"Corruption is a virus that has infected the party's healthy body," the general secretary told an extraordinary meeting of the party's discipline committee.

"If we just ignore this phenomenon it will bring down our party and our system," state media reported Mr. Jiang as saying. "In the course of the great socialist modernisation drive, our party, our officials and our people will absolutely not tolerate this outcome."

But Mr. Jiang, apparently defending against detractors who regard him as a leftist opponent of market reform, said the crackdown was not an attack on national development.

"It's not right to put anti-corruption in opposition to economic construction, to the reform and opening up, or to think that anti-corruption will affect their

progress," Mr. Jiang said.

Party discipline chief Wei Jiaxian launched China's latest anti-corruption drive Friday, saying kickbacks and bribes to party and government officials were undermining economic reform and whipping up waves of popular anger.

Graft has flourished in 14 years of market experimentation, with growing numbers of government and party officials demanding illegal compensation before issuing essential permits.

State media have been gearing up for the campaign for a week, saying 30,000 corrupt officials have been sacked this year already and detailing all manner of kickback schemes.

Mr. Jiang ordered all party organs and governments to pursue the campaign as an "important political task" and demanded tangible results this year.

"The fact that our party has issued a clear call for and persisted in the anti-corruption fight is a manifestation of its strength," Mr. Jiang said. "Those who do

## Turkey starts work on privatising telephones

ISTANBUL (R) — The Turkish government has started preparatory work on a privatisation of the state-run telephone system which could raise up to \$25 billion, Treasury Undersecretary Osman Uysal has said.

"We are now trying to determine what part of PTT (the Postal and Telecommunications Monopoly) we want to sell and what it's worth," Mr. Uysal told reporters.

He said he expected the privatisation to fetch between \$10 billion and \$15 billion, or up to \$25 billion if the government offered shares internationally through a "strategic" broker.

The valuation process could

take up to six months, he added.

Other steps in the process would be cabinet approval to separate the lucrative telecommunications business from PTT's loss-making postal services and legal changes to end the PTT monopoly in distributing telephone lines.

Privatising the PTT's telecommunications network is an important element in Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's plans to trim the public deficit, which is expected to hit 150 trillion lira (\$12.8 billion) this year.

Ms. Ciller has also said privatisation is her main weapon against inflation, which ran at 73.1 per cent in the year to July.

## Indonesia seeks to enlarge shipbuilding ability

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia plans to enlarge its shipbuilding capability for container and passenger vessels, the official Antara News Agency said Saturday.

This is in line with increased inter-island cargo shipments in the world's biggest archipelago, foreign trade needs and calls for more passenger travel.

Research and Technology Minister Jusuf Habibie, quoted by Antara, said the state-run shipbuilding company Pt. Pal would focus on vessels for up to 1,200 containers, from 185 now, and ships for 500 passengers.

He was speaking at the commissioning of a 3,650-deadweight-tonne (DWT) ship,

among 24 multi-purpose vessels being constructed in Indonesia for inter-island services.

The Jakarta Post Daily said Pt. Pal, which had sent engineers and designers to Germany for training, was also designing ships for up to 4,000 containers and 1,000 to 2,000 passengers.

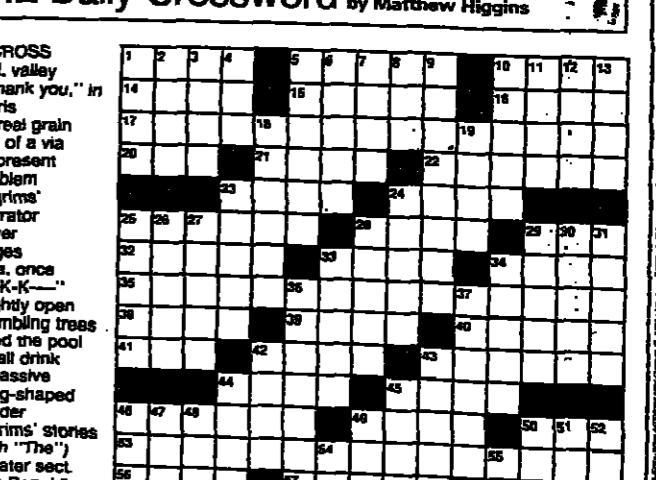
Mr. Habibie said he wanted to show that Indonesia could build larger and more sophisticated vessels at lower cost and within agreed time limits.

Indonesia in 1990 had 35 ocean-going ships totalling 446,000 DWT and 227 inter-island vessels totalling 347,000 deadweight-tonne (DWT), latest available figures.

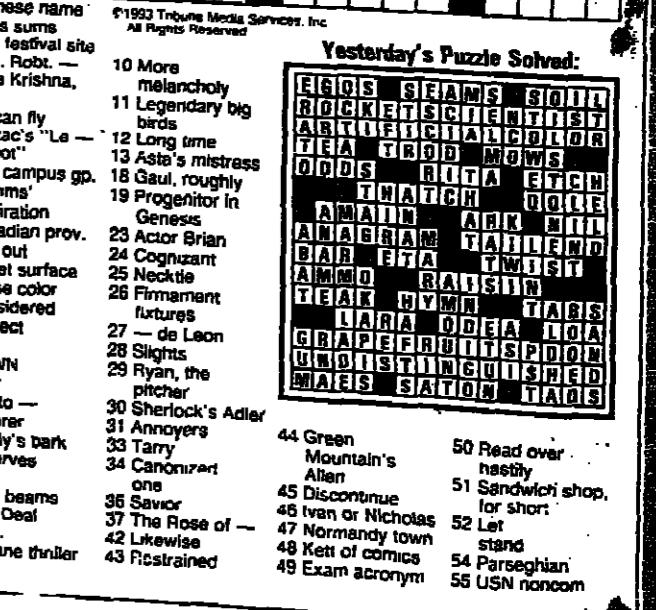
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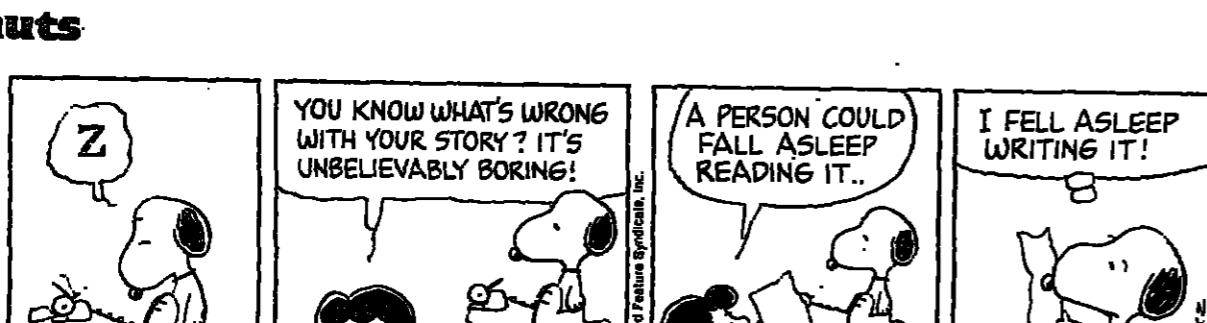
by Matthew Higgins



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



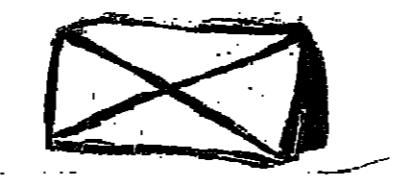
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



# Economy

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADE PRICE	PARTY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABRA BANK	123,450	125,250	120,250	120,250
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	7,620	7,620	7,620	7,620
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	9,860	9,870	9,870	9,870
MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT BANK	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	40,890	4,870	4,870	4,870
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK FOR HOUSING	33,120	2,850	2,850	2,850
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK FOR INDUSTRY	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	7,320	4,210	4,210	4,210
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	4,450	4,450	4,450	4,450
JORDAN NATIONAL INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,450
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	28,820	1,770	1,770	1,770
JORDAN INSURANCE	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
JORDAN POWER	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
JORDAN DISTRICT ENERGY AUTHORITY	5,050	5,050	5,050	5,050
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL SECURITIES	3,410	3,410	3,410	3,410
JORDAN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	37,820	2,870	2,870	2,870
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	11,410	1,720	1,720	1,720
JORDAN HOTELS & TOURIST ALARM	34,870	2,910	2,910	2,910
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING GROUP	1,470	1,470	1,470	1,470
JORDAN RIDGE EAST & DOMINIQUE HOTELS	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
JORDAN ROCKWOOD INDUSTRIES	10,480	2,620	2,620	2,620
JORDAN ROCKWOOD CONCRETE & REINFORCING PRODUCTS	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
JORDAN PRIVATE BANKS	9,420	9,420	9,420	9,420
JORDAN TANTRIC	6,120	3,950	3,950	3,950
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL BANK	1,410	1,410	1,410	1,410
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	51,220	1,620	1,620	1,620
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1,470	1,470	1,470	1,470
JORDAN ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING	5,110	3,720	3,720	3,720
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	4,100	3,650	3,650	3,650
JORDAN METAL CORPORATION	4,100	3,650	3,650	3,650
JORDAN NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	11,270	1,620	1,620	1,620
JORDAN ROCKWOOD INDUSTRIES	9,680	3,950	3,950	3,950
JORDAN RUBBER INDUSTRIES	10,210	1,620	1,620	1,620
JORDAN SULFUR CHEMICALS	11,160	3,650	3,650	3,650
JORDAN TANTRIC CONCRETE & CHEMICALS	11,900	3,650	3,650	3,650
JORDAN TANTRIC CO. FOR AGRI & FOOD PROD.	11,900	3,650	3,650	3,650
JORDAN INVESTMENT	39,820	2,720	2,720	2,720
GRAND TOTAL	1,102,410			

Financial Markets Jordan Times  
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

## Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 16-August 20, 1993)

AMMAN — Dollar exchange rates witnessed wide fluctuations against other major currencies during the course of last week. The dollar lost considerable ground against European currencies, but it managed to end higher against the yen. The U.S. unit, thus ended the week 2.24 per cent lower against the mark, 3.80 per cent lower against Sterling and 2.21 per cent higher against the yen.

The dollar fell sharply against European currencies Monday. Its decline appeared to be inspired by reports that several members of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) preferred adopting a wait and see policy during their meeting last July, due to improving inflation figures. In addition the dollar lost some support in view of traders' bearishness about U.S. economy, which had spread following the approval of Mr. Clinton's deficit reduction package, and on concerns over the potential impact of Mr. Clinton's Health care reforms. Meanwhile the yen, kept climbing against the dollar, ascending to new records and closing at 101.58 yen per dollar.

The yen continued to appreciate the dollar Tuesday, ahead of Thursday's meeting of Japan's economic leaders, who were expected to discuss steps to stop the yen's rise and stimulate Japan's economy. Analysts said that the dollar dropped against the yen as a result of traders' reaction to reports that the U.S. favours a strong yen. Others indicated that the Fed's failure to intervene to support the dollar, bolstered the view that the U.S. considers a strong yen as one way of reducing the mounting trade deficit with Japan. The dollar, thus ended at 101.05, its lowest for the week. The dollar, however, moved higher against the mark, in response to a sell-off of the mark against other European currencies. The dollar ended at 1.6928 marks, its highest for the week.

On Wednesday, the dollar fell sharply against European currencies, especially Sterling. Analysts attributed Sterling's rise to increased speculation that the Bank of England would not ease in the near future after British year-to-date retail prices were reported to have increased by 1.4 per cent in July from 1.2 per cent in June. Sterling thus ended at \$1.5175, its highest for the week.

The dollar rebounded sharply against the yen Thursday, as the Fed surprised market participants by its repeated intervention, selling yen against dollars. Analysts suspected that the Japanese and U.S. governments had made a deal that calls for Japan to stimulate economic growth and possibly reduce the trade surplus by opening the Japanese market to more U.S. goods, in exchange for U.S. help to support the dollar. In addition comments from the U.S. treasury secretary, expressing concern about the rapid rise of the yen, caught market participants by surprise as it showed a reversal in the previous U.S. policy concerning a strong yen. The dollar, thus ended at 105.79 yen, its highest for the week.

The dollar retreated against the yen Friday on profit-taking. In the meantime, comments by Bundesbank Vice President Hans Tietmeyer failed to support the dollar. Mr. Tietmeyer was quoted as saying that a major appreciation of the mark is undesirable in light of its adverse impact on German exporters. On the other hand, hopes for further German rate cuts were diminished following the release of higher-than-expected German M3 figures showing a growth of 7.5 per cent in July from seven per cent in June.

### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	12.8.1993 Close	20.8.1993 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.4595	1.5140	3.50%
Deutsche Mark	1.7123	1.6748	-2.24%
Swiss Franc	1.5245	1.4670	-3.92%
French Franc	6.0588	5.8375	-3.79%
Japanese Yen	101.90	104.20	2.21%

### General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0477	1.0529
Deutsche Mark	0.4127	0.4148
Swiss Franc	0.4717	0.4741
French Franc	0.1184	0.1190
Japanese Yen	0.6625	0.6658
Dutch Guilder	0.3667	0.3685
Swedish Krona	0.0670	0.0674
Italian Lira	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.01963	0.01973

## UAE reports sharp rise in capital outflow in 1992

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Capital outflow from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rose sharply in 1992, creating a deficit in its balance of payments for the first time in its history, an official report said Saturday.

Funds transferred out of the oil-rich Gulf state stood at 10.39 billion dirhams (\$2.83 billion) in 1992 compared with only 420 million dirhams (\$114.4 million) in 1991, the central bank report showed.

Despite a steep decline in foreign aid and other contributions, the balance of payment was a large deficit of 600 million dirhams (\$180 million) compared with a surplus of 5.18 billion dirhams (\$1.41 billion) in 1991, the report said.

It is the first time that the UAE has suffered from such a deficit. It is a major aid donor and a consumer market, but huge oil exports have helped maintain a surplus in both trade and balance

of payments.

"Funds, including private capital, continued to flow out of the country and they exceeded the surplus in current account in 1992, creating a deficit in the balance of payments," the central bank said without giving a reason for the increase in capital transfers.

Another negative factor in the balance of payment was a large increase in imports, which hit a record 64 billion dirhams (\$17.4 billion) in 1992 compared with 52.7 billion dirhams (\$14.3 billion) in 1991, the central bank report said.

Oil exports fell to 51.6 billion dirhams (\$14 billion) from 52.7 billion dirhams (\$14.3 billion) but non-oil exports and reexports rose to 30 billion dirhams (\$8.1 billion) from 24 billion dirhams (\$6.53 billion).

The report said the trade balance maintained a surplus but it was down to 21 billion dirhams (\$5.7 billion) in 1992 from 30 billion dirhams (\$8.1 billion) in 1991.

## Russian oil output drops by 15 per cent

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia produced 15 per cent less oil — 205 million tonnes (225.5 short tons) — in the first seven months of 1993, compared with the same period last year, ITAR-TASS has reported.

Russia has the world's largest reserves of petroleum and natural gas. But production has dropped 31 per cent since 1987 because of antiquated equipment, poor planning, labour problems and leaky pipelines.

The news agency reported that Russia has only 12 per cent of the modern equipment it needs to drill for oil. Many economists believe oil is crucial to Russia's economic transformation, because it is the largest source of the foreign currency.

## Saudi heavy spending undermining stability — report

NEW YORK (AP) — A decade of huge military spending and irregular banking practices has undermined the financial stability of Saudi Arabia, one of the world's wealthiest countries, according to a published report.

The country's \$121 billion in financial reserves have almost vanished in the past decade, the New York Times reported in Sunday's editions. Spending has outstripped the tens of billions of dollars earned from the largest oil fields in the world owned by the Saudi government, the paper reported.

The newspaper said the country began to feel the pinch in the

mid-1980s, when oil prices fell, and has racked up budget deficits since 1983.

The portrait of a country in dire straits came from information supplied by Saudi business men and officials, American foreign policy and financial officials, Saudi government documents and independent analysts in the United States, Europe and the Middle East. Most individuals spoke on the condition of anonymity.

One American official told the newspaper that "the biggest black hole in the Saudi economy" were unpaid loans to members of the royal family from the National Commercial Bank, the largest

private lending institution in Saudi Arabia.

The bank has not issued an audited financial statement in three years, the Times said. The bank's offices in New York and London were closed after criminal fraud charges were brought against its former chief executive.

The charges stemmed from the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. The newspaper said some powerful Saudis were among the best customers of the Arab-owned BCCI.

Saudi Arabia is the United States' largest supplier of oil, closest Arab ally and best customer for weapons exports.

Car finance companies accused the government of unfairness in paying car loans owed to banks but not car loans owed to other financial institutions.

Economists have cited the car loans issue as a factor complicating efforts to solve a separate \$20 billion bad debt problem that has enfeebled banks for more than a decade.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan was among those who voted for the law, which will take effect within the next month.

The draft law did not stay the total amount but car finance companies and members of parliament have said outstanding debt owed to the companies stands at about 150 million dinars (\$45 million).

The measure was contained in a bill submitted by the finance and economic affairs committee and approved by a 34-1 vote at a plenary session of the assembly Saturday, committee members said by telephone.

Deputy Ahmed Al Nassar said: "The sums (provided for in the legislation) are not documented yet but they are over 100 million dinars. The number of the citizens who will benefit from the law reaches about 45,000."

Most purchasers refused to resume paying installments after the 1991 liberation, either because their cars were stolen or damaged during the occupation or because they felt that car debts, like other loans, ought to

be paid by the government.

After the Gulf war the government funded a write-off of consumer loans owed to commercial banks that in many cases had been used to finance car purchases. House payments were also written off.

Car finance companies accused the government of unfairness in paying car loans owed to banks but not car loans owed to other financial institutions.

Economists have cited the car loans issue as a factor complicating efforts to solve a separate \$20 billion bad debt problem that has enfeebled banks for more than a decade.

The government, acting on requests from the car finance companies, had banned thousands of the borrowers from leaving the country until the car loans issue was settled.

Sheikh Nassar said the write-off would not apply to expatriate borrowers. The expatriates are believed to form a fraction of the total number of debtors and most have left the country.

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## Buthelezi hardens threat to boycott elections

DURBAN (AFP) — Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi has hardened his threat to boycott South Africa's first non-racial election on April 27, the Sunday Times reported.

"There is no way that ... as president of Inkatha, I am prepared to fight elections over who is going to write the constitution," he told journalists at a game reserve in Natal province Saturday.

"I am just not prepared to do that because it is a disaster for our country."

His bitter rival the African National Congress (ANC) and the government are pressing ahead with plans to have the elected Constituent Assembly draft a final constitution.

A final decision on whether to take part in the election would be taken at a conference later this year, Mr. Buthelezi said.

Mr. Buthelezi, fearing the IFP will be swamped by the majority ANC in the Constituent Assembly, demands that a final constitution with entrenched federalism to secure his KwaZulu homeland and surrounding Natal be drawn up before elections.

His threat follows a warning last week in Pretoria that the IFP would refuse to contest elections if their demands are not met.

His increasingly aggressive stance, together with regular predictions of civil war if the election goes ahead on April 27, is placing severe strains on his party's relations with Pretoria, the ANC and most of the 24 remaining parties at democracy talks.

The IFP and its rightwing Conservative Party ally abandoned talks on July 2, when democracy negotiators swept aside their protests and confirmed the April 27 election.

Mr. Buthelezi also demanded a referendum on whether or not South Africa should have a federal system.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus told the Sunday Times it was a great pity that Mr. Buthelezi had threatened to boycott elections.

"We will do everything in our means to get the IFP to change its position," he said.

Top government negotiator Roelf Meyer said Saturday the IFP had set unattainable goals which could not be reached without a compromise.

"If Inkatha refuses to make concessions, it will be difficult to bring it back into the fold," he said.

The IFP has dismissed out of hand two draft interim constitutions drawn up by democracy negotiators, which do not guarantee the federalism it demands.

President F.W. De Klerk last week lambasted the IFP for walking out of talks and of accusing the government with the ANC of conniving in democracy talks.

"Inasmuch as the democratic process makes opponents of us, the IFP needs to know that it will have to deal with a formidable adversary," he warned.

Mr. De Klerk left Sunday for a week-long tour of four South American countries aimed at boosting trade and business links, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. De Klerk, accompanied by a delegation of businessmen, is scheduled to visit Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile.

Meanwhile, a lone gunman with an AK-47 assault rifle sprayed workers attending a religious meeting here Sunday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 21, police said.

Police spokesman Captain Wikus Weber revised downwards an earlier toll of 17 dead in the carnage on the sprawling grounds of the Scaw Metal Works in Germiston, east of Johannesburg.

The dead were nine men and one woman, he said.

A resident of the migrant labour hostel on the factory premises said the shooting started at 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT) at a liquor store on the grounds and that four gunmen were involved, but this was not confirmed by police.

The dweller, who did not want to be identified, said the shooting appeared "unprovoked," with the gunmen later running out of the shop and spraying people gathered for a regular weekly meeting of the hostel's funeral committee.

According to the account provided by Capt. Weber, a security guard heard gunfire and saw a man armed with an AK-47 chasing another man through the hostel.

The gunman then went outside and opened up on the meeting taking place on a lawn in front of the hostel.

Nine bodies were found outside and one inside the hostel, Capt. Weber said.

## U.N. warns of starvation in devastated Mostar

SARAJEVO (R) — Muslims trapped in the besieged Bosnian city of Mostar could begin dying of starvation in five days unless relief supplies arrived quickly, U.N. officials said Sunday.

Heavy fighting raged between Bosnian Croats and Muslims Sunday in the southern city and Croat forces shelled the Muslim-held quarter. Reuters' correspondent Kurt Shork described the Muslim old town as a bomb-blasted wasteland.

"The food situation (in Mostar) is desperate," Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told a news conference in Sarajevo.

U.N. relief workers reached the Muslim-held quarter of Mostar Saturday for the first time since the beginning of June, delivering a small amount of medical supplies there.

The U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) civil affairs director, Cedric Thornberry, embarked on new negotiations Sunday to try to obtain permanent access for emergency aid to the sector.

He said Saturday's delivery of the medical supplies to a Muslim hospital was a "symbolic" gesture, intended to open the way for larger, regular aid convoys.

Mr. Thornberry said the Muslim hospital, housed in a laboratory built at the beginning of this century, has about 50 beds jammed into its hallways and entrance.

Four doctors from Sarajevo had arrived in the Muslim enclave Friday night, completing their journey with a 15-hour trek across the hills.

Around Sarajevo, tensions have apparently increased on Mount Igman overlooking the Bosnian capital. UNPROFOR spokeswoman Lieutenant-Colonel Trixie Purves said the Serb and Muslim armies had accused each other of failing to honour the agreement to pull forces back off Mount Igman by Aug. 14.

At a meeting with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo Saturday, both sides made direct threats if the

agreement was not obeyed. Col. Purves said they said if the other side violated the withdrawal agreement "they would batter them," she added.

In central Bosnia, the Bosnian government army appeared to be moving reinforcements from the 7th Brigade into positions around Fojnic and to the area around Gornji Vakuf. Both of these towns were the scene of intense combat in recent weeks.

Ms. Sachs said there was no electricity or water in the Muslim sector. The only water source was the Neretva River. "Whenever people try to get water, they get sniped at," she said.

U.N. relief workers reached the Muslim-held quarter of Mostar Saturday for the first time since the beginning of June, delivering a small amount of medical supplies there.

The radio said the letter from Secretary of State Warren Christopher encouraged a negotiated solution to the three-sided civil war and promised American assistance in the post-war reconstruction of the republic.

The U.S. State Department has sent letters to all three of Bosnia's warring parties urging them to consider seriously the compromise agreement hammered out at peace talks in Geneva.

Serb artillery opened fire on the Maslenica Bridge Sunday shortly after the Croatian authorities had finished repairing it, diplomats and the U.N. Protection Force here said.

Two shells landed near the bridge but caused no damage, UNPROFOR said.

A Western diplomat told AFP that about 10 shells landed in the zone at about 12:20 p.m. (1020 GMT) and that two more landed less than half an hour later.

The Croatian authorities had only got the floating pontoon bridge back into service towards midday after repairs to damage caused at the beginning of the month by Serb fighters of the breakaway Krajina region of Croatia.

An AFP journalist who briefly entered UNO headquarters where the pro-Sandinista group was holding the vice president and others saw a tired and tense Godoy, with former Assembly Speaker Alfredo Cesar, waiting out an end to the standoff, as the abductors' leader held a press conference next door.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta said two high-level delegations negotiating an end to the hostage crisis have free rein to reach agreements on legal and economic issues but cannot discuss political issues.

In an unusual move, Nicaragua's splintered political elite closed ranks with the president Saturday.

The pro-Sandinista group leader, known by the nom-de-guerre Commander 31, complained that the hostage release was not met with one from the rearmed contras.

"We freed people as a good will gesture, and what has (contra leader) the Jackal done?" Commander 31 asked reporters.

"He has not let anyone go."

Jose Angel Talavera, the leader of the Recontras, as the group is called, said Friday he would agree to no such exchanges.

The former contra rebels took hostage 37 members of a government delegation Thursday to demand that President Violeta Chamorro dismiss army chief Humberto Ortega, a Sandinista and the brother of the former Sandinista president, and Antonio Lazcano, Chamorro's controversial top aide and son-in-law.

The delegation had travelled to Ouilali, 300 kilometres (200 miles) north of the capital, for peace talks with the re-armed contras, who ended a civil war against the leftist former Sandinista government three years ago.

Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta said two high-level delegations negotiating an end to the hostage crisis have free rein to reach agreements on legal and economic issues but cannot discuss political issues.

"This is the most serious event Nicaragua has been hit with in years," Mr. Cesar said, before guards brandishing AK-47s



A member of the armed group calling itself Group 40 for National Sovereignty (masked) points at Delfio Baltodano (left), the director of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) at a press conference announcing the release of 14 hostages (AP photo)

## Pro-Sandinista hostage-takers free 14 in Nicaragua; standoff continues

MANAGUA (AFP) — Government negotiators convinced a pro-Sandinista group to free 14 hostages but at least 60 people remained captive Saturday in a double hostage crisis many Nicaraguans fear could trigger another civil war.

The U.S. State Department has sent letters to all three of Bosnia's warring parties urging them to consider seriously the compromise agreement hammered out at peace talks in Geneva.

Formerly U.S.-backed contra rebels took 37 hostages Thursday in northern Nicaragua. In retaliation, a pro-Sandinista group attacked the centrist UNO coalition headquarters during a high level meeting and took 40 hostages, including Vice President Virgilio Godoy.

Sandinista former President Daniel Ortega, sent to the site of the Managua hostage-taking as part of a negotiating team, told reporters: Mr. Godoy was still a prisoner but that the group freed two lawmakers suffering from ill health, 11 staffers and the son of a legislator. The group of former Sandinista troops freed another ill assemblyman shortly after its raid on a party meeting.

An AFP journalist who briefly entered UNO headquarters where the pro-Sandinista group was holding the vice president and others saw a tired and tense Godoy, with former Assembly Speaker Alfredo Cesar, waiting out an end to the standoff, as the abductors' leader held a press conference next door.

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"This is the most serious event Nicaragua has been hit with in years," Mr. Cesar said, before guards brandishing AK-47s

## Japan recognises World War II mistakes; refuses to pay compensation

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Morihiko Hosokawa is expected to express anew the national responsibility for World War II suffering in a speech to parliament Monday but his government has clearly said it will not be paying any compensation.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Hosokawa became the first Japanese head of government to describe the country's World War II posture as a "war of aggression" waged against Asian neighbours in the 1930s and 1940s.

Some Japanese press reports speculate that Mr. Hosokawa may even go a bit further Monday by offering formal "apologies" to the Asian countries.

Mr. Hosokawa, who came to power two weeks ago as the head of Japan's first coalition government in 45 years, is to address both houses of the diet, or parliament, Monday.

Asian countries which suffered during Japan's expansionist drive before and during World War II, mainly China and South Korea, have welcomed Japan's recent frankness.

However, Mr. Hosokawa's new, open attitude has also received demands for financial compensation by thousands of war

victims still living in Asia and elsewhere in the world.

It is virtually certain Mr. Hosokawa will not be offering compensation. Foreign Affairs Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday the question of war reparations was not.

The night before, Government Secretary-General Masayoshi Takemoto firmly denied reports by two mass-circulation newspapers that Tokyo would create a special compensation fund of up to two trillion yen (\$19 billion).

Mr. Hata said the 100,000 to 200,000 "comfort women", forced into prostitution by the Japanese Imperial Army during the war, were an exception in terms of compensation, but he did not give details.

The Japanese government has never before taken such steps to atone for its degree of responsibility in the long taboo question of World War II, a senator perched in the nation's history.

However, this frank new spirit is not without its opponents in Japan. Several opposition members have severely criticised the usage "war of aggression" and two ministers of the current cabinet have expressed reservations.

"It is a blasphemy against his

Michael Jackson stays out of public view

BANGKOK (AFP) — U.S. superstar Michael Jackson went Sunday into his first full day of a tour of Thailand and other Asian countries with his programme shrouded in secrecy. Lee Solters, who is in charge of public relations for the 34-year-old pop idol, said he had no programme of activities so far for Mr. Jackson, who will give two open air concerts in the Thai capital Tuesday and Wednesday amid massive security. "He will be visiting interesting places here and doing some shopping, but we just don't know when," Mr. Solters said. Staff at the Oriental Hotel, one of the most famous in the world, where Jackson is staying remained mum. Jackson arrived late Saturday in Bangkok, on the first leg of an Asian tour which also includes Singapore and Taipei. As the hotel lobby was packed with uniformed and plain-clothed police preventing any one but guests and staff from entering the lifts, Jackson slipped into the hotel by a backdoor to avoid a crowd of some 200 photographers and fans who had been waiting for his arrival. He later made a brief appearance on the terrace of his 13th floor suite and waved to a group who had gathered around the hotel's swimming pool below, chanting "Michael, Michael." A force of some 2,000 soldiers and policemen is to be deployed to provide security for the concerts which will take place at the 40,000-seat National Stadium. Tickets for the shows have been snapped up and the stadium is expected to be jam-packed for the performances, which have been described as the biggest concerts ever organised in Thailand.

**Brigitte Bardot turns her nose up at Saint-Tropez**

PARIS (R) — Screen goddess Brigitte Bardot, who pat Saint-Tropez on the celebrity map, now says her adopted French Riviera resort has lost all its charm. "The town is overrun by hoodlums, drug addicts, crooks of all kinds, bits of garbage," she said in one of a long string of put-downs published in France-Soir newspaper. "It's Miami." The fishing village nicknamed Saint-Tropez has been a summer playground for film and pop stars ever since Bardot, sex symbol turned animal rights crusader, settled there in 1958. Now she speaks her summers near Paris, where she was born. "The little gleaning port of the 1960s, when there were pretty girls, models, cover girls, is gone," Bardot, 58, said in the interview. "Today French fries and sausages are king." Saint-Tropez's population of about 5,000 swells in the summer when an estimated 100,000 tourists descend each day from the surrounding hills to crowd its medieval streets. "What's become of the little fishing port where I'd tie up my little boat to do my errands?" Bardot said as a young girl she'd go to night clubs in bare feet, her hair covered with sea salt. "Now you've got to go to the hairdresser's and put on an evening dress to go out at night." Saint-Tropez.

**Surgeon removes live grenade from man's arm**

BOGOTA (R) — A Colombian surgeon Saturday removed a live grenade from the arm of a man 14 hours after he was struck by the projectile in a crossfire between soldiers and guerrillas, the Colprensa News Agency reported. Gilberto Avanza Garcia was driving in his truck when he was struck by the fragmentation grenade in a skirmish between army troops and Marxist rebels near the city of Bucaramanga, Colombia. Two hospitals turned him away before he was accepted at a third in Bucaramanga. "I wasn't scared," the agency quoted Mr. Avanza as saying. "I only felt a little stunned when they told me I had a grenade in my arm."

"We must maintain close relations with the United States," said Mr. Nakanishi, who was appointed defence chief under the seven-party coalition cabinet.

Mr. Nakanishi said at a news conference Friday that the defence agency would seek a budget to purchase two Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes from the United States.

Television images showed the man lying in a stretcher with the grenade lodged in his blackened and bloodied left arm. The grenade, about 40 mm (1.5 inches) wide, usually explodes on impact. Colprensa said the defuse operation lasted about six hours. The surgeon was assisted by an explosives expert.

**Japanese wartime plane found in Indonesia jungle**

JAKARTA (R) — The wreckage of a wartime Japanese Mitsubishi fighter plane has been found in the Indonesian jungle complete with guns, ammunition and skeleton, Antara News Agency said Sunday. It said a scavenger found the plane, which carried the red sun insignia of Japan's Imperial Air Force, last week in the jungles of East Kalimantan on the island of Borneo. Officials trekked through the jungle to verify the discovery and recovered evidence for further study.

## Taiwan ruling party ends key congress

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui closed a key congress of his strife-torn Nationalist Party Sunday after averting a major split in its ranks but failing to quell growing dissent.

Mr. Lee, who survived a challenge from rebel delegates to win another four-year term as party chairman during the convention, appealed for party unity in the face of the most serious threats to the Nationalists' hold on power in four decades.

"I always believe that every difficulty can be overcome as long as we are sincere and determined," he told about 2,000 delegates on the last day of the gathering.

Elections by secret ballot were introduced for key party posts, including the chairmanship, and the Nationalists adopted a new platform which pledges to stamp out corruption, one of the main reasons for their loss of support.

The party also replaced many old-guard conservatives with a new generation of younger, more

progressive politicians in its 210-member Central Committee.

But the congress failed to satisfy the rebel faction which has grown since Taiwan began democratic reforms by lifting martial law in 1987. The rebels accuse Mr. Lee, 70, of dragging his feet on reform and tolerating corruption.

## Capriati ousts Sanchez-Vicario, Courier regains No. 1 ranking

TORONTO (AP) — Steffi Graf conducted a tennis clinic on Saturday in a 6-2, 6-1 semifinal defeat of Switzerland's Manuela Maleeva-Fragner to advance to the finals of the Canadian Open tennis tournament.

"Graf, seeded No. 1, will meet 17-year-old American Jennifer Capriati, a 7-6 (10-8), 6-2 semifinal winner over defending champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. The 24-year-old Graf was nearly perfect against her 26-year-old Swiss opponent, using an overpowering forehand and first serve to finish Maleeva-Fragner in 56 minutes.

"I don't think I could have played much better," said Graf, who landed her first serve 72 per cent of the time compared with Maleeva-Fragner's 26 per cent.

Graf, the top-ranked player in the world, has yet to lose a set this week. Saturday victory was her 17th in a row over Maleeva-Fragner.

"I can't criticise anything in my game," she said. "It seemed she didn't really know what to do because there wasn't anything today that could hurt me."

"I felt really under pressure all the time," said Maleeva-Fragner, seeded eighth. "I was trying to counter, I was trying to be aggressive, I was trying to hit even harder but she was coming up with even better shots."

The five-time Wimbledon champion won eight consecutive points the first two games. She also capitalised on the weak second serve of Maleeva-Fragner throughout the match. In the other semifinal at the National Tennis Centre at York University, Courier, seeded 12th, and Sanchez-Vicario, seeded second, dazzled a near-capacity crowd of 10,000 with a brilliant display of tennis.

The tenacious Spaniard came back from a 3-1 deficit in the first set to force a tiebreaker with the well-rested American, who received a bye into the semifinals when Julie Halar of France defaulted her quarterfinal match Friday night because of back spasms.

Sanchez-Vicario was up 5-0 and then 6-3 in the tiebreaker, but he saw some benefit to the loss.

"I will have some time off now before the Open. It has been four straight weeks (of competition) for me, which I think is a bit too much. I don't think I'm going to do this schedule again," Sampras said.

Rest is his major priority. "Take a couple of days off, start working out again, work on a couple of things down in Florida," he said when asked what he'd be doing since he didn't have

time to rest. "I couldn't be more delighted," said Paul Mellon, Sea Hero's 35-year-old owner who won his fourth Travers after having won his first Derby.

Sea Hero, who faltered badly in the Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes, the second and third legs of the U.S. Thoroughbred Triple Crown, and who finished fourth in the Jim Dandy Aug. 1 at Saratoga, was the eighth Derby winner to appear in the Travers since Shutout's victory.

Jerry Bailey kept Sea Hero well off the lead going down the backstretch, then sparked kicked the colt entering the final turn.

Sea Hero began going around horses and swept into the stretch four wide. At the top of the stretch, Sea Hero brushed briefly with Miner's Mark, who had beaten him in the Jim Dandy, then sailed down the middle of the track for his victory in 2 minutes, 1 4-5 seconds. Kissin Kris finished a length ahead of Miner's Mark.

## Kentucky Derby winner captures Travers

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP) — Sea Hero became the first Kentucky Derby winner since 1942 to also win the Travers Stakes Saturday, taking the lead with less than an eighth of a mile (200 metres) left and beating Kissin Kris by two lengths.

Returning to the form he displayed on the first Saturday in May, Sea Hero moved past Devoted Brass and Colonial Affair to be the first Derby-Travers winner since Shutout won the 1 1/4 mile (2-kilometre) race at Saratoga in 1942.

"I couldn't be more delighted," said Paul Mellon, Sea Hero's 35-year-old owner who won his fourth Travers after having won his first Derby.

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but Capriati came back and won the set on a cross-court forehand. "You dig deep down and you just come through," she said. "I just had all this adrenaline going and I was going to run down everything and not give anything up."

Sanchez-Vicario said losing the first set was the difference.

"If I would have won the first set everything would have changed. She started getting more confident."

The final is a rematch of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, in which Capriati beat Graf 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win the gold medal. Graf is 8-1 against Capriati.

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In the other semifinal at the National Tennis Centre at York University, Courier, seeded 12th, and Sanchez-Vicario, seeded second, dazzled a near-capacity crowd of 10,000 with a brilliant display of tennis.

Sampras was seeking his third consecutive U.S. hardcourt title, having brought a 20-2 tournament mark into the event.

But he saw some benefit to the loss.

"I will have some time off now before the Open. It has been four straight weeks (of competition) for me, which I think is a bit too much. I don't think I'm going to do this schedule again," Sampras said.

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In the other semifinal at the National Tennis Centre at York University, Courier, seeded 12th, and Sanchez-Vicario, seeded second, dazzled a near-capacity crowd of 10,000 with a brilliant display of tennis.

Sampras was seeking his third consecutive U.S. hardcourt title, having brought a 20-2 tournament mark into the event.

But he saw some benefit to the loss.

"I will have some time off now before the Open. It has been four straight weeks (of competition) for me, which I think is a bit too much. I don't think I'm going to do this schedule again," Sampras said.

Rest is his major priority.

"Take a couple of days off, start working out again, work on a couple of things down in Florida," he said when asked what he'd be doing since he didn't have

the time to rest. "I couldn't be more delighted," said Paul Mellon, Sea Hero's 35-year-old owner who won his fourth Travers after having won his first Derby.

Returning to the form he displayed on the first Saturday in May, Sea Hero moved past Devoted Brass and Colonial Affair to be the first Derby-Travers winner since Shutout won the 1 1/4 mile (2-kilometre) race at Saratoga in 1942.

"I can't criticise anything in my game," she said. "It seemed she didn't really know what to do because there wasn't anything today that could hurt me."

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## Hout withdraws from PLO Executive Committee

BEIRUT (R) — Shafiq Al Hout, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) veteran representative to Lebanon, withdrew from the PLO Executive Committee Sunday, saying the organisation was being wrecked by problems over leadership, peace talks and finance.

Mr. Hout, 61, stopped short of resigning and appealed for an urgent meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to stop the rot and rebuild confidence.

"As we await this (PNC) session I beseech every Palestinian to demand that it convenes and I find myself forced to suspend my work in the Executive Committee," he told Reuters in Beirut.

"I vow... to remain a loyal soldier for Palestine and the PLO, which I had the honour of taking part in building."

"I find it hard to witness its destruction, the liquidation of its institutions and the scaring away of its workers," added Mr. Hout, the PLO's chief representative to Lebanon since 1965.

He said it was no secret the PLO had political, financial and structural problems and its leadership was responsible.

Asked whether he was therefor resigning from the Executive Committee which he was elected to in September 1991, he said: "A resignation is presented to the PNC. It is the only body which has the power of decision (on it). We were not elected by (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat. We were elected by the PNC."

"From now on until the session is convened, I will take no part in the work of the committee."

Mr. Hout is considered a moderate and behind-the-scenes player respected by many Palestinians for his part in building the PLO.



Shafiq Al Hout

He won the admiration of both Lebanese and Syrians with whom he negotiated during Lebanon's 15-year civil war and the Israeli invasion up to Beirut to expel the PLO's fighters.

"As a member of the current Executive Committee, I consider that I and some other colleagues cannot bear responsibility for resolutions issued in our name without our knowing about them," he said.

Mr. Arafat this month made three Palestinian peace negotiators members of a seven-member steering committee to direct the peace talks after they threatened to resign because of disagreements.

"The most dangerous thing in all of this is the absence of the Executive Committee from (dealing with) the negotiations and the reporting (by Arafat) to names and positions which have no existence in the hierarchy of the organisation," Mr. Hout said.

"This is what we cannot accept or bear responsibility for, especially as we are nearing the stage of taking grave resolutions con-

cerning the outcome of the talks," he added.

The chief Palestinian negotiator to peace talks with Israel, Dr. Haider Abdul Shafiq, has demanded democratic reform of the PLO, including a collective leadership and the reactivation of PLO institutions to reduce Mr. Arafat's grip on the organisation.

Mahmoud Darwish, a PLO dove who played a role as a mediator between PLO leaders, resigned from the Executive Committee last week in protest at Mr. Arafat's leadership, peace talks policy and the financial crisis.

Mr. Hout said he and other leaders agreed at a PNC meeting in Algiers in 1991 to support the talks but found the PNC's principles and "red lines" — forbidden areas — for the negotiations were threatened or ignored.

He called for "all affected forces without exception" to take part in a PNC meeting.

Once one of the world's richest liberation movement, the PLO lost income from Gulf states angered by its sympathy for Baghdad during the crisis over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

According to Palestinian officials in Jordan, the PLO is selling some prime real estate to raise some of \$125 million needed to cover unpaid salaries, pensions and welfare benefits. (See page 2)

Officials said that had to suspend salaries in June for nearly 30 per cent of its 15,000 employees.

Palestinians say among those hardest hit are about 4,500 PLO fighters evacuated to Libya, Sudan, Yemen and Algeria after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982.



ISRAELI GUARD KILLED: Ambulance men Sunday remove the body of a Soviet immigrant who was found shot dead at a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank about 10 kilometres outside Jerusalem where he was working as an armed guard. The Islamic Jihad in Palestine claimed the attack and said it was in retaliation of the week-long Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon which killed nearly 150 people and displaced 500,000 (AFP photo)

## Resignations, graft hit Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's foreign trade minister resigned at the weekend, declaring himself victim of a push for power by mafia bands, as a corruption scandal began eating into the heart of President Boris Yeltsin's government.

Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergei Glazyev, 32, was summoned back to Moscow in mid-night on Friday night, hours after leaving on a five-nation African tour.

He resigned on Saturday, the second minister to go in two days. Mr. Glazyev, appointed in December, denied accusations by a presidential commission of chaos and graft in his department.

"We are now deciding what to do with a number of ministers," head of the presidential administration's control department Alexei Ilyushenko said, hinting at further departures.

"If things continue like this Russia may well turn into some kind of banana republic with coups, corruption, a complete lack of understanding between the branches of power," he told ITAR-TASS news agency.

Behind it all, Mr. Glazyev said, was "the struggle for power of

mafia bands, feeling their interests threatened by the actions of the ministry bringing order to foreign economic activity."

Mr. Glazyev announced the new regulations shortly before a key final meeting of the corruption commission last week.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev condemned Mr. Glazyev's allegations. "At a time when we need more than ever consolidation in the presidential and government structures such talk of fighting in the government... is deeply regrettable."

Mr. Glazyev's departure came a day after Information Minister Mikhail Fedotov resigned, accusing parliament of moving to take control of the media. But Mr. Fedotov had long fallen into disfavour with Mr. Yeltsin who clearly wants a stronger figure in the post.

Several days earlier a deputy economics minister was sacked in connection with the presidential corruption probe and three weeks ago Security Minister Viktor Barannikov was dismissed on hitherto unspecified charges of unethical behaviour.

Russia has lost, at very least, millions of dollars through illicit export of metals and oil below world prices. Lucrative, well-organised deals have spawned fortunes that inevitably bring political influence in a land of low-paid officials.

Behind it all, Mr. Glazyev said, was "the struggle for power of

## Rabin, army under fire over Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned right-wing rivals Sunday to be careful about attacking the army after top generals came under harsh criticism over the deaths of nine soldiers in Lebanon.

Parents of fallen soldiers also appealed for an end to the political acrimony triggered by Thursday's disaster-Israel's worst casualty toll in Lebanon since 1985.

The controversy underscored questions about whether Israel's weekend bombardment of South Lebanon a month ago, dubbed "Operation Accountability" had succeeded in distancing the threat of resistance fighters.

It also highlighted emotionally charged questions of whether the military may be criticised in the course of battle, a particularly sensitive subject in this country where most men and women serve in the army.

Mr. Rabin's remarks at the weekly cabinet session Sunday followed attacks on the army by

former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud Party and former Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, head of the rightist Zomet Party.

"The chief of staff should solve security problems and find solutions for terrorism instead of glorifying Assad," Mr. Shamir told Israel radio Friday, referring to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak's had said in interviews that Syria appeared to be sticking to the unstated terms of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire achieved in Lebanon July 31.

Mr. Shamir also accused the generals, known to be decidedly more dovish than himself, of "politicising," and blindly following those who are leading us to a national catastrophe," apparently referring to Middle East peace negotiations over Israel conceding the occupied Golan Heights to Syria.

Mr. Rabin defeated Mr. Shamir in the 1992 elections which

ended 15 years of Likud domination in government.

Mr. Eitan was quoted as calling on Gen. Barak to resign over the Lebanon deaths.

Mr. Rabin, a former chief of staff who commanded the army during the 1967 Mideast war, opened the weekly cabinet session Sunday by saying that the government has complete confidence in the chief of staff and the army.

"Whoever objects to politicising the army should be careful about making such comments against the army, especially at this time," Mr. Rabin added. An official in Mr. Rabin's office confirmed the remarks carried by Israeli radios and the Itim news agency.

The controversy persisted after the meeting.

President Ezer Weizman, a former air force chief and defence minister, urged politicians who disagree with the peace talks to "please attack the process and

## GCC to give \$400 million to Lebanon

MANAMA (AFP) — Six Gulf Arab states will give Lebanon \$400 million to help it recover from Israel's seven-day bombardment last month, officials said after Mr. Hariri arrived here for talks with Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

The sum would account for all but \$100 million that the Arab League promised on July 31, the officials said after Mr. Hariri arrived here for talks with Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Mr. Hariri arrived here from Damascus, accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Esam Abdul Meguid.

Saudi Arabia would give \$200 million, Kuwait \$75 million and Qatar \$35 million, while Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman would provide the remainder, they said.

No breakdown was available for the other three members of the six-month Gulf Cooperation Council.

The foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League decided in Damascus on July 31 to provide emergency aid to rebuild tens of thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged in the July 25-27 Israeli bombardment of South Lebanon.

Some of the money was also meant for equipping the Lebanese army, which has deployed in the south.

The officials said the remaining \$100 million in aid would be provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing \$10 million.

Bahrain's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Mubarak Al Khalifa, told reporters after a meeting with Mr. Hariri his country would reopen its embassy in Beirut, closed since the 1979-1990 Lebanese civil war.

Mr. Hariri and Dr. Abdul Meguid were next scheduled to travel to Qatar on Sunday and to Oman on Monday.

The United Nations is also to launch a multimillion dollar project to help reconstruct areas of southern Lebanon ravaged by last month's bombardments.

## COLUMN 8

Michael Jordan: 'I've just got to move forward'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. basketball star Michael Jordan speaking publicly for the first time about his father's murder, said Saturday he was holding up well and must now get on with his life. "I'm doing fine," Jordan told reporters at a press conference. "I'm doing really good," he said.

"I'm strong mentally and strong physically. And I've just got to move forward." Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls basketball team to three consecutive National Basketball Association championships, made the comment at a press conference at a golf tournament near Washington in which he played. Jordan issued a written statement in Chicago Thursday about the murder but had not spoken publicly about it until Saturday.

**Heart problems complicate Mother Teresa treatment**

NEW DELHI (R) — Mother Teresa is being treated in intensive care in a New Delhi hospital for malaria but her case is being complicated by her heart problems, a member of her Missionaries of Charity said Sunday. She can't take the full dose of medicine to treat the malaria because it affects the heart and this is complicating her treatment.

Some of the money was also provided by other Arab countries, including Egypt and Syria, with each disbursing \$10 million.

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**Diana spends 4 days in Bali and Sumbawa Island**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Britain's Princess Diana spent a four-day holiday at the tourist islands of Bali and Sumbawa, an official said. An immigration spokesman, Hario Subaya, said Princess Diana arrived Monday from Colombo, Sri Lanka, with two other people aboard a chartered Canadian plane. He said the princess travelled to the resort island of Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara, about 1,050 kilometres (651 miles) east of Jakarta. She then spent a day at Bali before leaving on the same plane.

**Siamese twin critical after separation**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Angela, a tiny Siamese twin separated from her sister in a delicate operation, was still critically ill Sunday as doctors remained tight-lipped on her chances of survival. The surgical team who performed a five-and-a-half-hour operation Friday to separate the baby twins, who were joined at the chest, said they would only be able to give a prognosis 72 hours after the operation. Doctors at the Philadelphia Children's Hospital had to reconstruct Angela's liver and heart to give her a chance of survival. But her sister Amy died during surgery.

**Clinton, daughter mobbed at farm fair**

MARSHAL VINEYARD, Massachusetts (R) — President Bill Clinton sparked pandemonium as crowds of people trying to get a glimpse of him surged forward, forcing Secret Service agents to form a protective ring around him at an agricultural fair. Mr. Clinton and his 13-year-old daughter Chelsea visited a farm and livestock show on this rural island of the New England coast, where the Clintons are spending a 10-day holiday. Residents and holiday-makers on the island had been reported to be fairly biased about the president's visit.

In the past few days, he has promised free and fair elections and gone out of his way to encourage the 1.5 million eligible voters to take part.

Clinton, after almost four decades of absolute rule, began its return to democracy after 1989.

The front, formed after Jordan lifted a 1957 ban on political parties in October, is the Muslim Brotherhood.

With government support over the years, it was able to build a solid grassroots support through a network of social and medical services and by maintaining a monopoly over mosques.

This helped them make huge gains in 1989 elections, the first in 22 years, when candidates ran as independents.

## Demjanjuk assured of U.S. entry — lawyer

TEL AVIV (R) — John Demjanjuk has been assured of U.S. entry papers once the Israeli supreme court that acquitted him of being Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible" lets him leave the Jewish state, his lawyer said Sunday.

Demjanjuk, who was tried and found guilty of being a Nazi guard in 1981, was given a new trial by the Israeli court in 1988.

Demjanjuk's lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, told Reuters that the court had agreed to let him leave the country.

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